



JOHN BULL

Vol. VIII. No. 195.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

No 151013



*The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull*

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

Contents

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

John Bull's Biscuits.

War Office Waste.

The Way of the Army.

Our Special Police Intelligence.

Imaginary Interview.

John Bull League.

John Bull in the City.

John Bull's Post-cards, Letters, and
Telegrams.

The Cartoon.

Among the Lawyers.

The Drama of To-day.

John Bull's Womenfolk.

Bull's Eyes.

John Bull's Letter Bag.

Racing Notes, etc.

ZOX

RELIEVES

Neuralgia,
Headache,
Toothache &
Nerve Pains

AND CURES.

Easy to take, safe to use; one tiny Zox power will remove the most excruciating pains arising from the facial nerves. A little powder, a minute or two of quiet repose, and your pain has gone. People who gave up work because of Neuralgia now take a Zox and go on. Years of use and thousands of users are on the side of Zox.

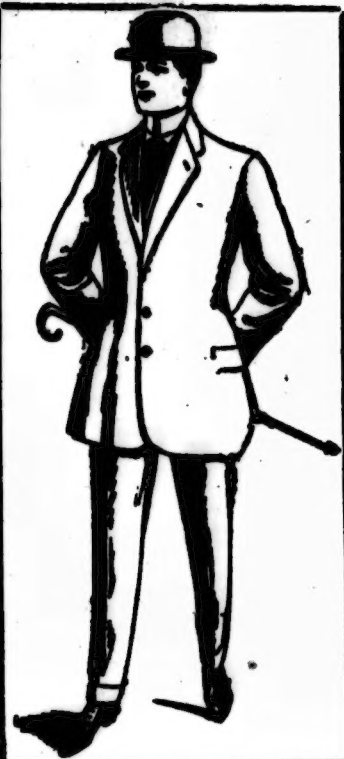
Free Offer.—Send stamped addressed envelope, and two Zox Powders FREE. Of all Chemists, Stores, &c., 1s. and 2s. 6d. per box, or post free from the ZOX CO., 11, Nassau Garden, London, E.C.

The Suit for Spring

Isaac Walton's Indomitable Two Year Serge makes an exceptionally smart Suit for Spring wear. It is All-wool, real Indigo Dye, absolutely fast, will wear two years, and keep its exquisite colour all the time. Ready to wear. No waiting. 18 different fittings. Call or send for patterns to-day.

Stocked in 18 different fittings as follows:

Fitting	Chest Measure over Yoke	Waist Measure over 17" on ar.	Leg Measure inside Leg
A	34	30	32
B	34	30	34
C	35	31	31
D	36	32	31
E	36	32	32
F	36	32	34
G	37	33	31
H	38	37	33
I	38	34	31
K	38	34	32
L	38	34	34
M	40	39	30
N	40	36	32
O	40	36	34
P	42	41	30
Q	42	38	32
R	44	43	30
S	44	40	32



Isaac Walton's
Indomitable 38/-
Two Year Serge

Isaac Walton

97-101, Newington Causeway, S.E. (2 minutes' walk from Elephant and Castle), 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, Ludgate Hill, E.C. (quite close to St. Paul's). 518-522, Brixton Road, S.W. (corner of Acre Lane). 442-446, Holloway Road, N. (4 doors from Nag's Head). Also at YORK and NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

John Bull's
Safety
Razor

CLEMAK
AUTOMATIC ACTION
Safety Razor

CLEMAK RAZOR WITH SEVEN BLADES COMPLETE IN CASE 5/-

ASK YOUR DEALER FOR A CLEMAK.

CLEMAK BLADES can be stripped, and will last for years.

STANDARD OUTFIT
TRIPLE SILVER-PLATED.
With 12 Blades and Strip, in handsome leather case 10/-

ClemaK Booklet Free.

CLEMAK RAZOR CO., BILLITER ST., LONDON.

WINCARNIS

A GOOD THING TO RELY ON.

In health and sickness "WINCARNIS" is a good thing to rely on. In health, because it protects you against the ravages of Influenza, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Chills, &c., maladies which are seriously attacking thousands of people at this time of year. In sickness, because "WINCARNIS" will invigorate and restore you quickly and effectively, besides furnishing your entire system with strength and energy.



Thousands of Doctors recommend WINCARNIS for

INFLUENZA

TEST IT FREE TO-DAY.

AFTER TRIAL.—"Wincarnis" can be purchased from chemists and grocers that have wine licences, also wine merchants. It is also sold by the glass and in 2½ flasks at hotels, licensed houses, and railway station refreshment bars. "Wincarnis" is also prepared with quinine, or iron, or papaine or celery, all of which are beneficial in suitable cases.

Sign this Coupon

and send with three penny stamps (to cover carriage) to Coleman & Co., Ltd., 267, Wincarnis Works, Norwich, and you will receive a Trial Bottle of "Wincarnis," the world's greatest Restorative, Free.

Name

Address

John Bull, February 26, 1910.

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.
There is a great difference in asking for a tonic or pick-me-up and in asking for "WINCARNIS." In one case you MAY get something to do you good—in the other YOU ARE SURE of it. Refuse substitutes.

JOHN BULL.

*Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.*

Vol. VIII. No. 195.

Saturday, February 26th, 1910.

One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor, or the Publisher, at 57, Long Acre, London, W.C., according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.

All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

GAIETY THEATRE. Manager, Mr. George Edwardes.
Every Evening, at 8, a Musical Play, OUR MISS GIBBS.
MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2. Box Office open daily, 10 till 10.

DALY'S THEATRE.—EVERY EVENING, at 8, Mr. George Edwardes' new production, THE DOLLAR PRINCESS, a musical play. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2. Box-office (Mr. H. W. Anderson) 10 to 10.

THE PLAYHOUSE, Charing Cross. **CYRIL MAUDE.**
EVERY EVENING at 8.30. **TANTALISING TOMMY.**
CYRIL MAUDE and MARIE LOHR. MAT., WEDS. and SATS, 8.30.

NEW TOWN HALL, HITCHIN.

A DEBATE

BETWEEN

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF LYTTON

AND

Mr. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P.,

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

TUESDAY NEXT, MARCH 1, 1910,

AT 8 P.M.

SUBJECT:— "PARTY versus A BUSINESS GOVERNMENT."

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

At the time of sending this page to press, the political atmosphere is thick as fog. By the time the last page of these notes goes to the foundry, Mr. Asquith will have shown his hand. From a certain line in the Whip sent us by our new chief, "the Master of Elibank," we have a shrewd idea of what is in the air—but we need not indulge in speculation.

The Times was good enough to award the place of honour in its issue of Friday last to our letter advising Mr. Asquith to first get on with the suspended Budget, and then, having adjusted the financial equilibrium, to proceed with a comprehensive Reform Bill, reconstituting the House of Lords—making it a real Senate, and reconstituting the House of Commons—making it a real representative Chamber. "Tinkering with the veto," we said, "will never arouse popular enthusiasm."

We notice that Mr. Speaker, when presenting himself in the House of Lords, reasserted the old Parliamentary privilege of freedom from arrest, and we wonder why it has ever been allowed to fall into abeyance. Then there was the claim to access to His Majesty. What a lucky thing it is that every M.P. does not assert the right! Imagine Mr. Redmond, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Barnes, and Mr. Belloc all calling at the same time to submit their views!

Apropos the Master of Elibank, we heartily congratulate him upon his new appointment as Chief Whip, in succession to Mr. Pease, and we congratulate the Liberals. "Jack" was a splendid fellow, but had a habit of saying things—and Whips should know nothing.

Wonderful how old members will hover round the House! On the first day of the new Parliament, the Lobby was full of them. Even Sir John Kennaway was there. *On revient toujours à ses premiers amours.*

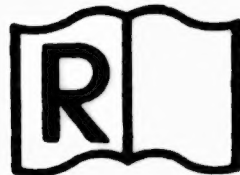
The spectacle of Mr. Chamberlain taking the oath and his seat will linger long in the minds of those who witnessed it. It was a grim and uncanny sight—full of tragedy. A grand old warrior, revisiting the scenes of his triumphs, declining even in his stricken years to admit himself beaten—cherishing vain but splendid dreams of once again joining in the battle! But there was poetry in the spectacle, too—a devoted son, full of the vigour of manhood—aloof and exclusive in temperament towards the outer world—now gentle as a child in filial love and attention. Those who saw Mr. Austen Chamberlain during those few minutes, leading his father in and from the House, and guarding him whilst there, saw him in a new, and perhaps a truer, light.

So Mr. Churchill has secured the Home Secretaryship! It is not exactly the post we should have allotted him, but, given Party politics, he was, we suppose, entitled to it. At any rate, he has a strong human note in his constitution, and that counts for much at the Home Office. All he has to do now is to cultivate a judicial method of looking at things. He must not spend quite so much time as heretofore with his fiery Celtic confrère from Carnarvon.

There is nothing remarkable in two people thinking alike, but when they express the thought—especially when it happens to be somewhat novel in its character—in precisely identical language, the matter should become one of interest to the members of the Psychical Research Society. The cause of this musing consists in the following sentence taken from "Vanoc's Hand Book" in the Referee for February 13th: "What we want is a Business Government for Business People."

And here is the Daily Telegraph coming round to our view. Says our contemporary, "The reckless expenditure which is going on will have to be curbed, and it will be surprising if public opinion does not insist that the country's finances shall be controlled by an impartial business man of ability, instead of being at the mercy of a partisan politician."

Poor Pete Curran! He had a big heart, had Pete, and beside that fact all else seemed small. Through and through he was what one calls a good fellow. This said, all said.



We confess we do not join in the chorus of merriment which has greeted the prank of a few fools who dressed themselves up as Abyssinians and hoaxed the officers of one of His Majesty's ships. The glorification which they have received will probably encourage other jokers to attempt similar exploits, and this may easily become a nuisance. After all, we do not see why the naval officers should be laughed at. They might retort with the classic answer, "You think us fools because we did not know you were liars." Moreover, the trick was only made possible by forging the signature of Sir Charles Hardinge to a telegram. It will be remembered that an ex-M.P. is now awaiting trial on a similar charge, at the instance of the *Daily Mail*. As the pretended Abyssinians have now published their photographs in the papers, it is to be hoped that they may soon be brought to justice. Failing that, let them try their game again and be subjected to the cleansing process of a ducking in the sea. Judging by his photograph, one of the merry men could do with a dip.

The advertisement methods of *The Times* have become extremely enterprising under the new auspices, and we were not greatly surprised the other day to receive the following:—

May we suggest to you the advisability of inserting an announcement on the front page of *The Times* in the form of a short paragraph, thanking your constituents for your election as their Member of Parliament?

This we feel sure would gratify your constituents, and be much appreciated by the supporters who have worked so hard for you during this contest. We have already published a few of these announcements, and should be very pleased to receive yours. The rate would be 1s. 6d. per line per insertion, average eight words to the line.

Of course everyone in South Hackney reads *The Times*, but there really are some constituencies in which the circulation of our great contemporary is rather limited.

Lord Ashton has made many munificent gifts to Lancaster. In a circular before us, issued to electors during the recent election, he protests against the lying and slanderous statements that "whatever he has contributed to the happiness and welfare of those among whom he lives has been done with a political motive; in other words, with a view to influencing the electors of this division." He says he has now made up his mind that if this sort of thing continues he will not take any further interest in Lancaster or the neighbourhood, and "thus save himself from a repetition of those disgusting exhibitions of political rancour as well as from an expenditure of many thousands a year." It is not difficult to understand Lord Ashton's anger. After all, however, it would be strange if he were exempt from the general reviling common to the game of party politics. We all get bespattered with some of the mud; and it not infrequently happens that the less you throw the more you get.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford (Doctor Casartelli) has been honouring us in the case of a Lenten pastoral letter by a reference to the John Bull League, and after quoting our statement that "the members will be encouraged, instead of thinking so much about the next life, to make the best use of this," asks, "Is it possible to conceive any doctrine more absolutely contradictory to that contained in our Lord's question, 'What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul?'" We fear the Bishop is deficient in the logical faculty. Why should making the best use of this life involve the loss of a man's soul? That calamity would surely follow from making the worst of life. However, we are always glad to hear the League talked about.

Apropos our recent paragraph about an old woman who was refused admission to the casual ward of the Hull Workhouse, the Clerk of the Hull Guardians informs us that, according to the report of the officer-in-charge, the woman refused to go in because she was told that she would have to be detained a few days, and that in the meantime enquiries would have to be made as to the truth of her statements. The Clerk further states the woman made no complaint of her illness, and had she done so, an effort would have been made to detain her for medical examination. It is further stated that the woman was not refused admission to the adjoining Union. We are always glad to give both sides of a question, but the fact remains that the poor woman deliberately smashed a window in order, as she told the magistrate, she might obtain shelter.

The Clerk of the Sculcoates Union also writes, admitting that our statements are "strictly in accordance with the reports which appeared in the local Press," but assuring us that such reports were incomplete, and generally confirming the disclaimer of the Clerk to the Hull Guardians. He adds that the Stipendiary Magistrate has since stated that he does not think any blame attached to the Board of either Union, and tells us that both of these bodies are "as far removed from the spirit of Bumbledom as it is possible for such institutions to be with the limitations on their powers as they exist to-day."

Here is a strange advertisement which one of our readers has extracted from the *Daily Mail*:—

Wanted, occasional use of two restful armchairs, in substantial house, good (central) address, while waiting between an afternoon concert and evening theatre. Terms strictly moderate, or give exchange country accommodation.

It is a modest request—on the face of it. But we should like Mr. Crosland's opinion.

In discussing the question of dealing with pauper corpses, the Rev. Stuart Smith, one of the Leicester Guardians, remarked that "there were many rich people he would be glad to bury." At any rate, that is how the *Leicester Daily Mercury* reports him. May we ask whether our dear and rev. brother will oblige with a scale of his burial fees?

Miss Binney Clarke, the Canadian farmer, announced at a meeting in London the other day that she is trying to raise £20,000 "to place English girls on the land in the Dominion." We have no desire to interfere; but she had better devote the money—if she gets it—to place them on the marriage register.

Dialogue from the Court of Mr. Justice Coleridge: Miss Maggie May suing her husband for the return of a £2,000 necklace: Mr. Lush, K.C.: "You lived with Mr. Bagley before you married him?"—The Lady: "I don't remember it."—Mr. Lush: "Did he keep a flat for you and maintain you?"—The Lady: "Yes; I didn't remember at first, as I was not so keen about Mr. Bagley at the time." How we do forget the little things of life, to be sure!

At the swearing-in of members of the House of Commons, it was noticed that Mr. Haldane held the Book up but did not kiss it. We do hope that if ever he gets into a theological argument after this nobody will have the bad taste to charge him with being afraid of microbes.

We note that the Woolwich magistrates have fined a stoker 20s., or 14 days, for "getting a bit o' grub for his wife and children" out of the swill tub at the Royal Artillery Barracks. What do they charge for burgling a dust heap?

We are getting on; at least we have become the subject of a special sermon at St. Mary's and St. Stephen's, Enfield, and if that isn't getting on we don't know what is. The preacher, the Rev. Shephard-Walwyn, appealed to his hearers to save Sunday for England, and he went on to assure his readers that "the Editor of JOHN BULL quite misunderstands the motives for prosecutions for Sunday trading." On the contrary, we understand the motives of Sabbatarians very well. They want to compel us all to be so good on Sundays that we shall have nothing to do except to be miserable. What we want for England is a free, happy, healthful, wholesome Sunday, with the churches and chapels competing with other agencies for the betterment of the people. Nobody wants to prevent Sunday being saved for England; but surely this is not to say that Sunday should be the most dismal day of all the seven.

In a Church school near York the children were gathered together not many days ago for the annual distribution of prizes at the hands of a Primrose Dame. Improving the occasion, the vicar asked, "Who is the greatest man in England?" and from all parts of the room the answer came, "Lloyd George." The vicar was evidently nonplussed for a moment or two. "I thought you children would have answered 'the King,'" he said. But he is evidently a tactful man, so he proceeded to show how from small beginnings Mr. Lloyd George had risen to a very high position "owing to perseverance and studious habits." All this apparently upset the Primrose Dame, for she went for Mr. Lloyd George right and left. She said that though he might be a very great man he was certainly a very wicked one, and that if he had his way their parents would not be able to provide them with food and clothes. "And," she added in a final hit, "I should not be able to give you any prizes." Now by next election the children will condemn Mr. Lloyd George by an unanimous vote of horror and detestation.

"The worst of the two-party system," says Mr. Harold Cox, "is that each party teaches that Parliament can do no harm except when the other party is in power." With great respect to, and for, that brilliant controversialist, this is not the worst. The worst is that each party teaches that the other can do no good unless itself is in power.

In the window of his shop a Leeds City Councillor exhibits this startling notice: "Dredge's L test Championship Award, Open to United Kingdom for Tin Bread. Made with Millennium Flour. This Cup was won outright." If tin bread is the best the Councillor can do with millennium flour under Free Trade, he had better plump for Tariff Reform—or change his flour. The black bread of the Fatherland is horrible, but probably nutritious. Tin bread would disorganise the digestive apparatus of an ostrich.

To our mind, the religion of Canon Stokes, vicar of Elm, near Wisbech, is regrettably un-Christian. A few days ago a girl in the parish died while giving birth to a child. Because, as he put it, the girl "died in sin," he omitted parts of the Burial Service at the poor thing's interment, and also removed some flowers from the grave—to the great distress of the relatives and others who were present. If the girl sinned, she paid with death, and this fact alone would influence most people to throw over her cold body the cloak of that Pauline charity which has so large a place in the Burial Office. Evidently Canon Stokes is the type of State-Church priest who thinks that the letter of the ecclesiastic is a greater thing than the spirit of the Christian. And, the cloth aside, is it not vicious, and mean, and cowardly, to strike at the living through the dead?

In view of the forthcoming discussions in Parliament on the Fiscal question, we thought we would look up our old friend John Stuart Mill, of whom, in our younger days, we were a diligent student. Instinctively turning to the chapter on Money, as one of the most talked about and least understood things in the world, we thought we would look for a plain and commonsense definition, which would make things perfectly clear to the man in the street and assist him to follow the forthcoming debates; and this is what we found:—

If we assume the quantity of goods on sale, and the number of times those goods are resold, to be fixed quantities, the value of money will depend upon its quantity, together with the average number of times that each piece changes hands in the process. The whole of the goods sold (counting each resale of the same goods as so much added to the goods) have been exchanged for the whole of the money, multiplied by the number of purchases made on the average by each piece. Consequently, the amount of goods and of transactions being the same, the value of money is inversely as its quantity multiplied by what is called the rapidity of circulation. And the quantity of money in circulation, is equal to the money value of all the goods sold, divided by the number which expresses the rapidity of circulation.

After this it will not be our fault if the public indulges in any further economic crudities of thought in regard to the root of all evil.

Here is a story from Glasgow. Recently, a man went into the shop of a furniture dealer, purchased a trifling article for sixpence, and then, while the owner's back was turned, temporarily vanished with a chair. Five minutes afterwards, the man re-entered the shop with that same chair, and as Abraham would not give him a shilling for it, he sold it to him for tenpence. "It is one of the most barefaced thefts of which I have ever heard," commented Bailie King, in sentencing the prisoner to sixty days' imprisonment. One of the older legends is that a Jew is no match for a Scotsman. We have half a mind to believe it.

It is amusing to observe that while we are talking about abolishing our House of Lords, Greece, which is the only country in Europe without a Second Chamber, is now proposing to set one up. There is no accounting for tastes, but it may be noted that the new senators will receive salaries of about £300 a year, so Government patronage will be increased.

It is very fashionable for magistrates to blame the licensed victualler for everything. But Sir Samuel Boulton, Chairman of the Barnet Petty Sessions, got a nasty rap on the knuckles the other day. He wanted to know the name of the publican who had served a person charged with drunkenness, and the answer was that the drink had been purchased at a grocer's shop! So, of course, nothing more was said. Funny world!

Here is a poser:—"Last Sunday afternoon, my son, a lad of fourteen, stayed away from Bible-class to take a walk in the country. On the road he picked up a diamond and sapphire ring, worth about £40. It had been dropped from her motor-car by a lady, to whom it has been restored, whilst my son has been rewarded with five golden sovereigns. What shall I tell him if he wants to stay away from Bible-class next Sunday?"

A London correspondent tells us he knows a German who, rejected by the German army authorities as physically unfit, applied for naturalisation papers in London, obtained them, and then "joined the Territorials with the view of becoming an officer." Perhaps Mr. Haldane is hopeful of turning inferior Germans into superior Englishmen. Nothing like a hopeful temperament!

We are glad to note that the magistrate of the Manchester City Police Court has had the courage to deal with two fashionable shop-lifters as he would probably deal with shop-lifters in poorer circumstances. There was no question that the women—mother and daughter—both well-connected, went to the Oldham Street shop in which they were caught with the deliberate intent of stealing whatever they could during the sale, for they had provided themselves with paper and string to wrap up their plunder. The sentence of two months' imprisonment to which they were sentenced, however distressing and surprising it was to themselves, was undoubtedly well deserved.

At the London Sessions about the same time Mr. Robert Wallace had to deal with a case in which "Clarice Burnley, 29, a well-dressed woman, living at Hampstead," pleaded guilty to obtaining goods to the amount of £50 by false pretences from Selfridge's. In explanation of her crime it was stated that she was under a mistaken impression that her engagement would not lead to marriage, that she became depressed, and that she "did not know what she said or did"; while in mitigation of punishment it was urged the money had been repaid, that her fiancé could not marry her if she was sent to gaol, and that her whole life would be irretrievably ruined. Now the Chairman of the London Sessions is a just and merciful judge; and in this case, on the understanding that she was removed from London, away from temptations of any kind, he allowed her to be bound over and "saved" from the ranks of crime. We cannot criticise that decision; but what is one left to say when it is compared with the sentence of a month's hard labour passed by the Mortlake magistrates on a porter convicted of stealing 6d. worth of milk from a churn at Barnes railway station? He had been in the employ of the company for ten years, and "nothing was known against him apart from this." What does Mr. Wallace think of it?

Insubordination in His Majesty's ships of war is a matter of such grave moment that it must be sternly punished. But there is the other side, too. Such insubordination as that which lately occurred on the cruiser *Leviathan*—mutiny, is not too strong a word for it—necessarily implies grievance, and probably grievance well grounded. For this reason, we suggest that the condition of affairs in H.M.S. *Leviathan* necessitates a more thorough inquiry than the disciplinarians of the court martial—who have sentenced four men to two years' imprisonment and dismissal from the service, and sixty-one to punishments ranging from three months' imprisonment to loss of badges—would of their own motion be willing to set on foot. From time to time we have had to speak of the petty tyrannies of officers, not only in the Navy but in the Army. It is against human nature to expect men under naval and military discipline to work at their best whether for the nation or the ship while labouring under a sense of injustice. We all love Jack, and for his sake and for the sake of the Navy as a whole, the First Lord of the Admiralty ought to make Naval officers in command thoroughly understand that anything in the way of nigger-driving cannot be tolerated.

By-the-by, it is no uncommon spectacle to travellers to and from Waterloo Station to see sailors handcuffed together on the platform, when their offence, viewed in the light of civil law, is probably of a comparatively trivial character. Why is not the escort under orders to chain the men's feet and complete the picture?

According to one of the London magistrates, there is no law against little boys using the street pavement as a skating rink. Where does he get his law from?

More than once we have had to address ourselves to Mr. De Grey, the Metropolitan magistrate, in terms of strong disapproval. It appears that to his blunders of judgment we have now to add his infirmities of temper. A few days ago a Clapham lady was called by the police to give evidence in a begging case. She stated the facts quietly, ending with, "I am quite convinced this is the woman." The magistrate then shouted at her, "You'll have to convince me as well." "I cannot say any more," quietly commented the lady. Asked in cross-examination whether the woman was wearing a bonnet at the time of which the witness spoke, "A bonnet," replied the witness. "Most ladies wear bonnets, don't they?" was the foolish question of the cross-examiner. For a while the witness hesitated, as well she might, and then answered, as any sensible person would, "I don't know." Here the magistrate angrily interposed. "Then say so. Please behave yourself, and don't waste my time." We are not surprised that the local reporter says "the witness became confused at this treatment. She was unable to appreciate another question, and was ordered by the magistrate peremptorily to leave the box." Witnesses come to court expecting civil and decent treatment, and not to suffer volcanic and senseless outbursts of temper which they do nothing to provoke. Mr. De Grey had no right to bluster at this lady. Both in manner and law her conduct was correct; his own would be beneath notice did it not appear likely to develop into a public menace. How much longer is the Home Office going to tolerate such a man in the seat of judgment?

A German hotel has been advertising in the *Morning Post* the great and unusual attraction "Personal supervision of Proprietor." Certainly, many hotel proprietors require it.

No doubt the Salisbury County magistrates were right in granting a licence for the summer months to the Bustard House, on Salisbury Plain. It is one of the historic inns of England, well-known in the old coaching days as a halfway house between Salisbury and Devizes. It is beyond question a lonesome place, and in ordinary circumstances nobody would want a licence for it. But Salisbury Plain has of late years become a centre of military manoeuvres in summer, new traffic has been attracted to the road, and large numbers of people not officially attached to the military—spectators, press correspondents, and so on—have had practically no means of obtaining either food or drink. So that every reasonable argument before the Licensing Bench was in favour of the freeholder, who is willing to risk spending enough money upon it to turn it into a modern hotel.

A fair sample of the other kind of argument was that of the Rev. G. Yeomans, Vicar of Shrewton. Here it is, as reported by the *Wiltshire Times*. "His own servant would say, 'Please can I go out?' and one could not say 'No' in the present day, and off the young people would go and meet Tom, Dick, and Harry, and they would say, 'Let's have a glass,' and one did not know what would happen. The military authorities could not follow them across the Plain, nor could the clergymen." But why in the world should the military and the clergy do any such thing, even if they could? Does the rev. gentleman mean to say that nobody ought to "have a glass," even in the wilderness, because he cannot be provided with a military or clerical escort?

The deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank are said to be now worth only 18s. in the £. Supposing the depositors had lent a Business Government 160 millions at 2½ per cent., would the money have been allowed to depreciate?

A London Sunday paper makes itself responsible for the statement that the local Roman Catholic priest of Ramsey, in the Isle of Man, has publicly forbidden poor Roman Catholic children to accept Protestant soup—the distribution having been hitherto made irrespective of creed or sect. If the rev. father has in fact taken the bread out of hungry mouths in the way stated, most people will agree that his intolerance matches his inhumanity. Would he regard it as sinful to dine with a Protestant friend, or to eat bread made by a Protestant baker?

Our attention is directed to the injury which is being inflicted upon local motor engineers, and others connected with the trade, by the ferocity of the fines imposed upon motorists by the Croydon Bench, who have publicly given notice that £10 is their minimum penalty. The result is that drivers and owners avoid the Croydon Road as much as possible, whilst many who reside in Surrey will not take out their licences in that county, thus depriving it of several hundreds a year. Serve it right.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT" :—

The coster drove up to the polling station in his donkey cart, his moko being gorgeously decorated with one of the party colours. As he emerged from the booth, after recording his vote, he received a great ovation from the party agent and his friends. But, as he drove away, he remarked, in the correct vernacular of his class: "Them's not my blooming colours—they're the blooming donkey's."

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—



VICE-ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE NEVILLE, WHO HAS PROHIBITED THE HARMLESS CUSTOM OF AWARDED A PINT OF BEER (OUT OF THE CANTEN FUND) TO EACH OF THE SHIP'S COMPANY ON THE COMPLETION OF SMART COALING OPERATIONS.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits for births, deaths, or marriages, which creep into the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!
OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.
WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For referring to "a bald-headed, but OTHERWISE RESPECTABLE-LOOKING person,"

THE MORNING LEADER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting Lord Alfred Douglas as stating under cross-examination: "I STRUCK HIM (Oscar Wilde) till he died,"

THE MANCHESTER COURIER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a letter to the "West Middlesex Times" that the Liberals objected "to certain individuals posting bills on the front door of a GENTLEMAN,"

MR. JESSE H. DAVENPORT, ASHFORD,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following announcement: "Stock Exchange Effect of the Brighton Disaster. HEALTHIER TONE,"

THE EVENING NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Viscount Maidstone, whose engagement to Miss Drexel is just announced, will, in the ordinary course of events, own one of the most glorious RUINS in England,"

THE EVENING STANDARD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "The letters and messages which Major Griffith-Boscawen has received expressing REGRET at the result of the election could hardly have been exceeded if he had been the VICTORIOUS CANDIDATE,"

THE HERALD (DUDLEY)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For complaining that a woman ran about "like mad, with all her clothes off and her SLEEVES TUCKED UP,"
A PLAINTIFF AT THE ROCHESTER POLICE COURT
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "The only thing you could SEE at all clearly was the SMELL,"
THE PARIS CORRESPONDENT OF THE DAILY EXPRESS.
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing: "Collection of refuse. The monthly meeting of the HEREFORD TOWN COUNCIL was held yesterday,"

THE HEREFORD MERCURY
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following notice: "£5 Reward will be given to any charitable institution if found that ANY PERSON buying a rabbit from this stall is either FOREIGN OR FROZEN,"
THE PROPRIETOR OF A STALL AT MOSES GATE,
NEAR BOLTON,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For referring to a young girl happening to be "the only SON OF HER MOTHER,"
MR. ALLEN, BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For asking a witness in a libel case if he had "ever seen any ladies walking about the sea-wall in PARASOLS,"
MR. MONTAGUE SHEARMAN, K.C.,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following rule: "Gentlemen are not permitted to wear Hats on the Skating Surface,"
THE PREMIER RINK DE LUXE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "The late Lord Sackville married HIS MOTHER,"
THE DAILY MIRROR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

THE BRIGHTON EXPRESS DISASTER.

SOME LIGHT ON ITS REAL CAUSE—SERIOUS QUESTIONS FOR THE DIRECTORS TO ANSWER.

Our readers will recall that the verdict at the inquest on the seven victims of the Stoa's Nest disaster was one of "Accidental Death."

It will be remembered that the accident occurred at Stoa's Nest Junction, the train having just passed the points, 200 yards distant from the station.

From statements made to the Press by the station-master, the driver himself, and an independent eye-witness, the train was travelling at a rate somewhere between 40 and 50 miles an hour.

The printed instructions issued by the Company to each driver contain the explicit order that no junction is to be passed at a speed *exceeding 15 miles an hour*, whether or not boards are exhibited to this effect. How was it that at the Board of Trade enquiry no single question was asked by the Inspector as to the rate at which the train was travelling at the time? No one but the officials of the Company could have given this important information, which was carefully withheld.

The truth is that drivers are forced to disobey their plain instructions. The distance between Brighton and London, and *vice versa*, is divided by the Company into sections, each of which is supposed to be covered in a certain time. If a driver exceeds the schedule time on any section it is booked against him, and he has to report on the same to headquarters. Most of these sections contain gradients or tunnels which make it impossible for a uniform speed to be maintained. The drivers are, therefore, compelled to "let go" somewhere, in order to cover each section in the given time. Drivers, of course, know places in each section where this may be done, and, owing to a slight downward slope and an absence of curves, the scene of the disaster is one of such places. Notwithstanding their instructions, drivers are in the habit of passing these points at between 50 and 60 miles an hour.

For some time past the Brighton Company have been trying to rival the speed attained by the great main lines, who, of course, have longer non-stop runs. In order to do the London to Brighton journey (51 miles) in 60 minutes it is necessary in places to travel at a speed exceeding 65 miles an hour, and this is more than some of the engines used by the Company can maintain for long. Everything is sacrificed for speed. Recently one of the oldest and most experienced express drivers on the line reported certain defects in his engine which required immediate attention. He complained to his superintendent that his engine could not do the journey. "Do it," was the reply; "it *must* be done."

Drivers and men employed at the Brighton works are keenly interested in the question of the supposed shifting of the wheel on its axle. If this is the true cause of the disaster, how is it that it was not discovered at once?

Immediately after the accident large breakdown gangs were sent to the scene of the disaster from both London and Brighton. Many of these men were practical men of great experience, and it is, at least, very strange that after the wrecked carriage had been seen by scores of experienced men, the locomotive superintendent should suddenly discover the "shifted wheel."

No one who knows the inner working of the line is surprised at the disaster. The only wonder is that a far greater one has not occurred before.

Two types of express trains are run daily by the Company:—

(1) An express corridor train made up *entirely* of Pullman cars.

These trains are always run with an "Atlantic" engine.

(2) A "composite" train—made up of 1st, 2nd and 3rd class coaches, together with one or more Pullman cars. On these trains either an "Atlantic" or an older type of engine is used, most frequently the latter.

But both these are allowed the same time for the journey. The "Atlantics" are of course capable of the speed, but the others are not.

It should be remembered that the train to which the disaster occurred was one of the second type.

ENGINE DRIVING.

In view of the foregoing, we have pleasure in publishing the following rejoinder by Mr. Albert Fox, General Secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, to the article we recently published by a medical man on the subject of Engine Driving:—

"My attention has been drawn to your issue of the 12th, in which an article appears under the above heading, 'Suggestions by a Medical Man.' I am one who served in the capacity of a locomotive man for twenty-six years, a good portion of which was as an engine driver, and had the pleasure of leaving the Company's service with a good character, and never having occasion to collision, although during those long years I was many times confronted with the necessity of not only having brains, but knowing how to use them, and that very quickly. I am afraid that 'Medical Man' knows little or nothing of the difficulties surrounding the calling of locomotive engine drivers. I must say, however, that I agree with him that it is necessary that the men who drive our engines should be good men. I also agree with him that they should occupy the same position that the skipper does on board a vessel at sea; that is, that they should have sole charge of the engine and be in authority over all her movements. Even 'Medical Man' I feel sure would sympathise with the skipper who was held responsible, but who had to take orders from everybody in the same way that our engine drivers have to do. I also agree that engine drivers should have three times the amount they now have in wages, and the fireman a corresponding increase, and if I had my way, neither 'Medical Man' nor anyone else would ride behind them until they had that amount. Only locomotive enginemen themselves know what it is to drive a locomotive engine on a foggy day. I fancy I hear him say there are the Company's rules for his guidance, and my reply to him is that the rules are as useless as some of the remedies which he prescribes for his patients. Perhaps he, like many other people, thinks that the signals make railway working safe. I want to disabuse his mind, and to tell him that it is the care, forethought, and sound judgment, that ensure safety. Of what use are signals in the fog when they can't be seen?

"He suggests that engine-drivers should be drawn from the better classes so as to enable them to have brains. It is news to me that there had ever been any line of demarcation in this respect. Certainly education can be offered to the dullest, but nerves, skill, and ability are not to be forced in this way. I might go as far as to say that the wonderful performances and the precision with which those performances are carried out by our locomotive enginemen make one almost think that they are *born* enginemen, or they could not be so successful. The companies themselves realise the responsibility placed upon our enginemen when they state in their rules 'that engine drivers must not always rely on signals,' yet the same rules tell them that they are to so regulate the speed of their trains as to ensure punctuality, which means that they have to run at 60 and even as high as 70 miles an hour on some portions of the road, yet they must not always rely on signals! I happen to have before me at the moment *Railway and Locomotive Engineering* for February, 1910, and under the heading of 'Causes of Railway Accidents,' I find this:—

At the present time railroads afford greater safety to the passengers carried by them than by any other means of transportation. In support of this Mr. Rosch, Master Mechanic of the El Paso and South Western Railway, pointed out that the Pennsylvania, the Burlington, the Santa Fe and the Chicago North Western ran their passenger trains for the year ending June 30th, 1909, without a single fatality to passengers, whilst in 1908 the New York street cars killed 434 persons and injured 36,060.

"I undertake to prove that neither at sea, nor in the army, nor even amongst the medical fraternity can be found men better qualified, or men who prove their qualifications with quicker power of rapid cerebration than the men who man our railway engines."

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

A SERIOUS COMPLAINT. REQUIRING PROMPT ATTENTION.

We have received the following letter from Messrs. Richard Wood, Ltd., coach builders and steel and timber merchants, of Wimbledon, and assuming the facts to be as therein stated, a very grave case—requiring immediate explanation—is made out against both the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the administration of justice at the South Western Police Court. We have every sympathy with any properly conducted effort to protect the dumb creation, but all these voluntary associations are apt to become mischievous in the hands of over-zealous representatives; whilst the complacency with which the average magistrate listens to their charges constitutes a grave judicial scandal. We shall be glad to know what the Society has to say for itself.

We beg to bring before your notice an incident that took place on Saturday last, the 5th inst., and we venture to say that you will agree that something is radically wrong with our Police Court methods that such a thing is possible.

At 11 a.m. one of our horses and vans left these works in charge of a highly efficient and trusted man, who has been in our employ for ten years and against whose character there has never been the slightest whisper.

The horse is a valuable one, eight years old and in splendid condition, and when leaving our yard was perfectly sound and going well. When near Balham High Road, the horse for some reason quite unexplainable, suddenly goes lame, probably from treading on a stone. An inspector of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals appears on the scene, and promptly gives man and horse into the custody of a police constable.

The man is next brought up and charged before Mr. De Grey at the South Western Police Court, fined 40s. or one month, and we know nothing of what is taking place until 4.30 p.m., when we get a telephone message and a telegram, after sentence has been passed and when our place of business is closed and no one about who is in a position to deal with the matter.

Our man is taken from the Police Court in the prison van together with several convicted felons to the Wandsworth Gaol, where he is put into a cell and afterwards stripped of his clothes and belongings, at which time I arrive, pay his fine and obtain his release.

Now, sir, the point we want you to notice is, that any horse is liable to go lame on the road, and surely no man should be treated as a criminal of the worst type because he is in charge of his master's horse when it has the misfortune to go lame.

Also we contend that as our name is on the van and we are a well-known firm, we should have been served with a summons, and not our man hauled up and cast into the common gaol without us having the opportunity of defending him.

The whole thing seems to us to have been done in the most indecent haste. At 11 o'clock a.m. he leaves our yard, and at 4 o'clock p.m. he is sentenced to a month in default of paying 40s. Without our being given an opportunity of paying his fine he is placed in prison and treated as if he were an outcast of the worst type.

GERMANY'S NAVAL AMBITION (IN 1875).

The following is not an extract, as at first sight it might well appear to be, from Mr. Blatchford's recent articles in the *Daily Mail*, but is an editorial note that appeared just thirty-five years ago in *Colburn's United Service Magazine*—

All that we wish to impress the public is, that in spite of the very smoothest assurance from interested parties, Germany is preparing for a struggle with us for the supremacy of the seas, and the melancholy example of France is surely quite enough to bring home to the most unthinking the ruinous consequences of being caught unprepared. One great naval defeat sustained by us would be a blow to our prestige that would take very many years to efface; hence it must never occur.

These prophetic words were written by way of comment upon a statement that had appeared in the inspired *Nord Deutsch Zeitung* to the effect that "the whole scheme of Naval policy has been remodelled for the purpose of enabling the German fleet to assume the offensive when required by the wants of the new Empire." Here is a significant sidelight upon Teutonic foresight. Barely five years after the proclamation of the Emperor William at Versailles a Bismarckian organ was candidly avowing that the future necessities of a united Germany would lead to a trial of strength on the ocean with England, for this country was alluded to, although not by name, throughout the article.

THE MYSTERY OF THE "WARATAH."

A REPLY TO OUR RECENT ARTICLE—AND A CONFIRMATION.

We have received the following interesting letter from a correspondent who signs himself "A Merchant Service Officer":—

It seems to me that Mr. Claude G. Sawyer knows no more about ships than a sailor knows about briefs. A ship well trimmed, especially with the cargo exported from Australia, always rolls slowly, and a badly trimmed ship rolls quickly and most uncomfortably. The ordinary ocean swell encountered in those latitudes, without the effects of any wind, is quite enough to make any ship roll to, sometimes, a great extent.

Mr. Sawyer must indeed be a very clever man if, by watching the water in his bath, he could tell to within fifteen degrees how much the ship rolled. I have been in two first-class mail steamers on the Australian run, and both vessels have registered over fifty degrees with a following sea; one was twenty years old, and had rolled over forty-five degrees frequently, while the other vessel's record roll was fifty-two.

Mr. Sawyer, as an experienced traveller, ought to know that ships very often give the peculiar jerk referred to: It is generally caused by a beam sea, although it can happen with a following sea. The ship being over on one side rises to the top of a wave, and naturally makes herself perpendicular with the other side of the wave as soon as possible.

Ships generally do put their noses into it when steaming twelve or thirteen knots into a big swell or sea.

As for Mr. Sawyer's fellow passenger, ex-ship's officer, I should say he was what is commonly called "pulling his leg."

With reference to the dreams, how many nervous passengers dream the ship is in danger and survive, but of course one only hears of these things when by a coincidence it comes true. I have known people leave a ship after a gale frequently, the public don't hear about it because the ships have arrived safe and sound.

The stability of any ship depends greatly on the manner in which she is loaded. It is not likely that the commander and chief officer of the *Waratah* neglected this important detail.

There are also many large passenger steamers with a deck more than had the *Waratah*, and not so much depth of water. Most of the big ships plying through the Suez Canal to India, China and Australia are of this class, so that argument is ridiculous. She may still be afloat, in spite of the fact that she had been posted "Lost" at Lloyds, although it is not likely.

Perhaps you will remember a few years ago when one of the Alfred Holt or Blue Funnel steamers disappeared for some months between Kobe and Yokohama, a much less distance than between Durban and Cape Town, and then turned up down by the Philippine Islands. There are several other theories about the *Waratah* far more probable than Mr. Sawyer's. It is very strange that no wreckage has been sighted, if she went down between Durban and Cape Town.

There are boats, lifebuoys, oars, boats' masts, derricks and numerous other wood fittings that would have been floating about which H.M.S. *Forde* would have been sure to observe.

She may have broken down and been carried by the strong currents miles away, and then gone down when lying helpless in a heavy gale; but I don't think for a minute she capsized. It is also unjust to the commander and officers to say so without substantial proof.

We have also received the following letter from Miss Elsie Hall, of Lansdowne House, Lansdowne Road, W.:—

My sister saw the *Waratah* off from Sydney on June 26th, and the following mail wrote me that Mr. Scales, the purser, had told her he would give anything not to be going that journey. He was so oppressed at the thought of it.

Surely these people whom one is constantly hearing of as having noticed the peculiar list the boat had could have said something about it. Is nothing to be done?

"A BOGUS VANDERBILT."

THE "STAR" AS R.P. VAN WINKLE.

Several weeks ago we gave a very full account of certain transactions between a man calling himself Vanderbilt and Prince Francis Joseph of Braganza, when the Prince gave bills to a total value of £375,000 for certain reconstructed "emeralds" and 50,000 shares in a mining company still to be formed. On Friday last our enterprising contemporary, the *Star*, gave a portion of this statement under flaring headlines, suggestive of a great discovery. Well, better perhaps late than never! Where, by the way, is the Chairman of the Emerald Mines, Ltd?

THE BOY SCOUTS.

WHO IS TRADUCING SIR FRANCIS VANE?

It may be remembered that in our issue of Dec. 4th, 1909, we referred to the differences of opinion between General Baden-Powell and Sir Francis Vane, which had led to the retirement of the latter from his position as second in command of the Boy Scouts, and we said that Sir Francis Vane considered himself aggrieved by the action of Sir Robert Baden-Powell. A very representative meeting of Scout Masters made it plain that their sympathies were with Sir Francis Vane, but since his retirement rumours closely affecting his personal honour have gone abroad. It is considered significant that these rumours began to circulate immediately after the meeting of Scout Masters which demonstrated the general feeling in favour of Sir Francis Vane. For a time that gentleman knew nothing of them. Then he was told that the Bishop of London had referred to them, and inquiries satisfied Sir Francis Vane that he was the victim of very malignant accusations. He has tried to track the calumny to its source, but without success. Men say they have heard things, but none will give the name of their informant. Sir Francis Vane was, however, informed that General Baden-Powell had, when surrounded by several Scout Masters, referred to him as a person with whom he would not shake hands, but upon Sir Francis Vane inviting explanation, Sir Robert Baden-Powell assured him that he had never made any such statement, and has no intention of making it. There, for the moment, the matter stands. Sir Francis Vane—a man of the highest honour, whose long record of work on behalf of the young and in encouraging patriotic enthusiasm should have made him immune from such malignant insinuations—is trying to get at grips with the calumny, and the matter cannot stand where it is. The organisation of the Boy Scouts is disclosing some very grave defects. We shall have more to say about them on another occasion.

HARRODS' AND THEIR EMPLOYEES.

WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION.

We have often received complaints about the sweating system in vogue at Harrods' Stores, and it seems to us, in view of the bloated dividends of that company, that shareholders might do well to insist upon more humane methods of conducting the business. One of Harrods' methods is to induce young persons to come on approval for a long time without wages. A reader tells us that his daughter, aged 16, was persuaded to work in their counting-house for nine weeks without receiving a penny. When she began, her father was informed that the hours would be from 8.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., with intervals for dinner and tea, but since finishing her probation, she has not on one occasion finished at 6.30 p.m., but is detained sometimes as late as 8.30 p.m.; one Saturday, instead of finishing at 2.30 p.m., she had to remain until 6.30 without extra pay. In case of illness, a full day's pay is deducted, and attempts are now being made to curtail the dinner time. When a girl is quick and obliging, she is made to do extra work other than her own, and, when this causes her to get behindhand with her own, she is obliged to catch up arrears another day, sometimes beginning as early as 6.45 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETINGS.

February 22nd.—GENERAL BADEN-POWELL (Scout Master).

If I be not ashamed of my soldiers, I am a soused gurnet.
—Shakespeare.

February 22nd.—FERDINAND AUGUST BEBEL.

The century is not ripe for my ideal.—Schiller.

February 24th.—LORD CROMER.

Whatever they call him, what care I?

Aristocrat, democrat, autocrat—one

Who can rule, and dare not lie.—Tennyson.

February 24th.—C. ARTHUR PEARSON.

What is (Daily) Expressed may be prejudiced.—Law.

THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

IMPUDENT CIRCULAR TO DEPOSITORS.

One of our readers who is not yet prosperous enough to patronise an ordinary bank, has been in the habit of depositing his savings with the Post Office. He laboured under the delusion that as this institution paid him only a ridiculously small interest, he was entitled to treat it as other people do their banks, withdrawing sums of money whenever he felt inclined. Now, however, he has received a green circular from the Postmaster-General calling "his attention to the fact that the cost of administering the Post Office Savings Bank has been much increased of late years by the tendency on the part of some depositors to use the bank for the purposes of a current account instead of for the purposes of simple saving which it was established to promote." The Postmaster-General goes on to suggest, with sublime condescension, that no doubt "in many cases such abuse of the facilities provided is only due to thoughtlessness; and he, therefore, appeals to depositors (whose interests are identical with those of the Department) to assist him by conducting their Savings Bank business with as few separate transactions as possible." Was there ever so monstrous a circular? Any business man could conduct the Savings Bank at a handsome profit, but the unbusinesslike department, not content with depreciating deposits until, in the event of a run, there would not be enough to go round, actually pleads that customers shall refrain from exercising their rights. Oh, for that Business Government!

HOSPITAL HUMBUG.

BY AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIBER TO THE FUNDS.

(We do not associate ourselves with some of the remarks of our contributor, but they are worthy of serious attention.)

Doctors at hospitals are always grumbling. Apparently the only patients they welcome are those who like being cut up for experimental purposes. Those who suffer from ordinary ailments must expect only a very cold welcome. If they are not in abject poverty, they are taunted with offering themselves as candidates for charity, and are invited to go away and pay guineas to some Harley Street quack. If they are really poor, they are accused of malingering, and their very medicine is grudged them. The other day, a certain Joseph S. Barber, who is retiring at last from the position of Chief Dispenser to the Royal Free Hospital in Gray's Inn Road, imprudently blurted out some of the secrets of his craft.

This is what he had the audacity to state publicly: "It is surprising how many people have got well by faith in the virtues of a little coloured water, which, if they only knew it, is all that the medicine contains."

Now this is a very grave confession, for which somebody ought to be placed in the commodious dock at the Old Bailey. Large sums of money are collected every year for hospitals, and half-witted persons find a delight in rattling money-boxes in public places at frequent intervals. The idea is that suffering humanity is relieved. What really happens is that embryo doctors enjoy a free opportunity of experimenting upon the unfortunate, and now we know that, instead of attempting to relieve illness, they trust to the credulity of their victims and save money by dispensing coloured water. If this is not theft, it is certainly not very far removed from that crime.

Meanwhile, it is somewhat strange to find a hanger-on of the medical profession advocating fraudulent faith-healing when he would be one of the first to denounce the practice of Christian Scientists as manslaughter. We will content ourselves with saying in conclusion that it is high time to start an agitation in favour of business management of hospitals.

With reference to our paragraph of February 12th, we are asked to state that the Hampstead Roller Skating Pavilion, Finchley Road, has no connection with the Hampstead Roller Skating Palace.

The British Freeholds Investment, Ltd.—We have received a visit from an American and a Canadian gentleman, who tell us that they are the British Freeholds Investment, Ltd., and that they have come over here to teach us the benefits of Small Holdings.

HOW DID SIR THOMAS LIPTON BUILD UP HIS BUSINESS ?

How did Sir Thomas Lipton build up his business ?

This question is a momentous one to the business man. For the interest of a question depends upon its practical application to the life or circumstance of the inquirer.

Now it is well known that the magnificent concern of which Sir Thomas Lipton is at once the founder and the head, and which now numbers hundreds of handsome shops, as well as a palatial head office, large factories, tea plantations, etc., etc., had its beginning in one small shop in Glasgow which Sir Thomas owned when he was a young business man.

How did Sir Thomas Lipton do it ?

Many a young business man gets into the way of talking a lot about the successful man in business—what he has done and what he owns. But this is a mistake. What he ought to do is not to talk, but to think. To ask himself "How did he do it ?" And then to go steadily to work in his endeavour to make for success in business himself.

It will be granted then that there could not be a more important question for the young man in business to ask himself than this one—

"How did Sir Thomas Lipton build up his business ?"

Now the man who says glibly that the conspicuous and brilliant success of Sir Thomas Lipton is only due to the cultivation of the essential business qualities of punctuality, sobriety, and civility is talking nonsense.

He knows—he must know, if he thinks for an instant—that there were at least a hundred men who started with a single shop in Glasgow in the same year that Sir Thomas Lipton did. The most of them were equally civil, sober and punctual as he was.

Yet these men are still working hard in their single shops, and are only too glad that

The Remorseless Flood of Competition

has not swept their shops away, and driven themselves to seek service with one of the big companies.

And Sir Thomas Lipton is at the top in the business world, and numbers his employes not by hundreds, but by thousands.

Napoleon said of warfare that force without intelligence was worse than useless, but this truth applies to all kinds of war, and to no phase of it more truly than to the fierce struggle that characterises the business life of the day.

To this struggle you may bring as much force as you like, you may be as hard-working as you like—you may be very strong in the moral qualities of punctuality and honesty, and in the negative quality of sobriety; but unless to these you add business intelligence and sagacity, you will remain a one-shop man all your life.

The average man who goes into business is honest and sober and hard-working—it would be a bad day for the employer if this ceased to be the case. But the average man stays down with the ruck, making a painful living. And the man who cultivates business sagacity comes to the top.

What is Business Sagacity ?

Failure is inevitable to the man who attacks a hard job without the proper tool. Failure is inevitable to the man who plunges into the business fight unarmed.

Sir Thomas Lipton knew this. His first step towards success was to acquire knowledge of business—he succeeded because he first acquired business sagacity and business knowledge.

It has been said that he knows what the public wants and he gives it to them. But the truth is that his business sagacity enabled him to anticipate what the public would want, and to be beforehand with his business rivals in giving it to them. It was knowledge of business—of business conditions and business possibilities—that gave Sir Thomas the confidence to act on his own brilliant business ideas.

The Tool for Your Purpose.

There is no reason in life why you should not succeed. And the purpose of this article is to tell you of a book that will enable you to do so.

This book is "The Business Encyclopædia." It is written by business experts—men who have built up the businesses they represent into the gigantic successes they are to-day.

If you are a clerk, "The Business Encyclopædia" not only instructs you in the things you ought to know, but it enables you to perfect yourself in that additional knowledge of business which, though you may not need it at the moment, is the surest passport to promotion.

If you are a commercial traveller or an agent, "The Business Encyclopædia" is full of interest for you; the manager will find here all about company law, methods of amalgamation, County Court business, etc.; all about big selling schemes, how to create the demand for any special articles, etc.

If you are a tradesman "The Business Encyclopædia" is necessary to you; its constant use and the surety that

It is Written by Business Men

will give you confidence to act on your own business ideas, founded as they will be on reliable and up-to-date business knowledge.

It will be seen from this brief summary that "The Business Encyclopædia" is such a compendium of expert business information as has never before been submitted to business men, and that the young business man who is interested, rightly and naturally interested in and rightly and naturally envious of the conspicuous success of Sir Thomas Lipton, has here a means at his hand to enable him to come to the top.

But he cannot too emphatically impress upon himself that it is *knowledge* that will enable him to do so.

And "The Business Encyclopædia" is the only book ever issued in England that contains all that expert and up-to-date business knowledge that means certain success.

THREE OPINIONS.

SIR THOMAS LIPTON writes—

"The 'Business Encyclopædia' is got up in a first-class manner, and should prove a most valuable addition to the library of every business man."

SIR THOMAS DEWAR—

"The volumes are full of information, and I feel sure they will be found necessary in every commercial house. Now that we see the Encyclopædia the marvel is that such a work has not been thought of in this country before."

MR. L. G. HORSLEY, CASHIER, MARLBOROUGH ROAD, IPSWICH—

"I find it of the greatest possible assistance to me in my work as cashier to one of the largest manufacturing companies in East Anglia. I am only sorry there were not such valuable sources of information years ago. It would have saved me hours of work."

A FREE BOOK.

The Publishers have compiled a handsomely illustrated book—"THE PRACTICAL BOOK"—which will be sent to you **FREE**. It contains information of priceless value to the man who means to succeed. It will tell you all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and how it can be obtained for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance to be paid by small monthly payments.

To the Caxton Publishing Co.,

Clun House, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, a copy of "THE PRACTICAL BOOK."

Name

(Send this Form or a postcard mentioning JOHN BULL.)

Address

SIR HIRAM MAXIM AND ROULETTE.

SIR HIRAM DISPOSES OF THE COMPLAINT OF A "JOHN BULL" CORRESPONDENT.

We have received the following letter from Sir Hiram Maxim:—

In your publication of 5th inst. I find the following:—

A. G. (London) points out that Sir Hiram Maxim wrote in one of the magazines offering the numbers which came up at the roulette during his contest with Lord Rosslyn, but that applicants are passed on to someone who will only supply the numbers on payment of a guinea. Perhaps there is some mistake. What says Sir Hiram?

This certainly calls for a reply on my part.

When Lord Rosslyn challenged me to play roulette it was not convenient for me to be present every day. I therefore employed three croupiers to represent me. One spun the wheel and rolled the ball, another took down the numbers as they came up, also the stake, while a clever and rapid calculator counted out the money and took charge of the game. His lordship also had one assistant who was a good mental mathematician. As no one was playing except his lordship the game progressed very rapidly, and at the end of ten days Lord Rosslyn was hopelessly beaten. When the game was finished the croupier in charge asked his lordship for the permanencies. He gave his consent and I also consented. While the game was in progress both Lord Rosslyn and myself had many applications for copies of the permanencies. All of these were turned over to the croupier. It then occurred to me that it would be a very laborious task to write all of these out in the ordinary way. I also saw that mistakes might creep in, so I made a little machine, nearly all of wood, and ordered 37 large rubber stamps. Each stamp had a number, also everything that won with that number. The machine was so made that a band of paper was fed in step by step, the stamp with the correct number being applied at each step. The roll of paper is 10 inches wide and 115 feet long, when closely printed, and weighs 3½ lbs. The complete roll showing the 3,081 coups has printed upon it nearly 18,000 characters. Not only are the number and colour shown, but also "Pair and Impair," "Manque and Passe," the first, second and third dozens and the three columns. By printing all these on a long band of paper one is able to see the rather fantastic manner in which the winning chances are grouped, when and where the runs occur, and, in fact, take the whole thing in at a glance, which is quite impossible with any other arrangement which I have ever seen. In order to make a correct copy by hand it would probably take a week, but with the machine which I have made, two clever operators can turn out a complete copy in a day, and with no mistakes.

The machine is the property of the croupier. I have never received a single penny from the sale of permanencies or the use of the machine, and don't expect to. Quite true, there is a demand for cheap permanencies, but the roll which I speak of is cheap at the price demanded. The croupier also has some accurate permanencies, taken down at Monte Carlo, which show the numbers in red and black, printed in the ordinary way in a book; these are sold for 10s. each, and, I understand, contain over 25,000 coups.

When I made the printing machine, I never intended it as a work of charity. Correspondents were anxious to get copies, and I referred them to the croupier, but in every case before purchasing they were supplied with a specimen of the roll.

If the Editor would like to see what an elaborate affair this roll is, the croupier would be only too pleased to call and show it.

We thank Sir Hiram for giving this full explanation, but we would rather not see the roll.

With reference to a paragraph that appeared in our issue of February 12th, referring to W. E. Watts and Co., Ltd., the managing director of W. E. Watts (Nottingham), Ltd., asks us to say that the name of the business is very similar to their own, and as the paragraph is likely to do them considerable damage they wish to say that they have no connection whatever with W. E. Watts and Co., Ltd., referred to.

We shall be glad to receive hospital tickets, Surgical Aid Society letters, etc., from readers not requiring them. Many extremely sad cases come to our notice in which such documents are of great use.

THE ARDING AND HOBBS' FIRE.

A WORD WITH THE COMMITTEE.

We have had submitted to us a copy of a petition addressed to the Committee who have been administering the Fund raised to assist the employees rendered workless, and in many cases homeless, by the great fire at Messrs. Arding and Hobbs. This petition—which is signed by 63 of the 300 and odd servants of the firm at the time of the fire, and would have been signed by a much larger number no doubt if they could have been got in touch with—complains of the intended allocation of the monies in hand. The public subscribed all told about £9,000. Of this the Committee have spent £5,000, so there remains a surplus of £4,000, which they propose to apportion between the Bolingbroke Hospital, divers local charities, and the charitable institutions of the drapery trades. We should have nothing to say against this suggested allocation if it were true, as the Committee allege, that they have dealt generously with all claims. Indeed they say they have done more than this. To quote from the report, "despite rumours to the contrary, no suggestion of ungenerousness in dealing with claims has been made against the Committee." This is an amazing statement. Not only is it not true that no complaint has been made, but a large number of the employees for whom the fund was created are bitterly complaining, and, as it seems to us, with ample cause.

The ideal relief of persons placed in the position of the young men and women employed at Messrs. Arding and Hobbs' at the time of the fire would be to pay them a sum of money that would cover their present and contingent loss, but it was not to be supposed that, however generous the public, the fund would be large enough to do this. But if the Committee had proceeded on the right lines, the whole of the £9,000 would have gone to the employees.

It is futile for the Committee to say that they have met every claim in a generous way. To give a couple of illustrations of the lines upon which the Committee went. Many of the employees at an establishment like Arding and Hobbs travel to business on bicycles. These bicycles are left on the premises until they are wanted again in the evening, and it must necessarily be a matter of considerable sacrifice to find the money with which to buy these machines. Now a large number of bicycles belonging to the employees were destroyed at the recent lamentable fire, but the Committee rule them out—they give nothing whatever in compensation. Again, many of the young women had sewing machines of their own upon the premises. These machines were mostly destroyed. The Committee rule them out for the purpose of compensation. Why? Surely it is as necessary to compensate for the loss of bicycles and sewing machines as for clothes, yet the Committee, with thousands of pounds in hand, decline to pay a penny in the way of compensation for these losses. Instead, they make a grant of £450 to the sufferers in the Kilburn fire; they have sent £50 to sufferers from a fire at Herne Bay; and, as we have said above, they are allocating other monies to various institutions and persons. By what right do the Committee act in this way? If the fund was so large that when they had satisfied every legitimate claim upon it there remained a surplus, then they might be entitled, having regard to the difficulty of returning the money to the givers, to use the surplus in some such way as indicated, but note what the petition says:—

We would suggest that as our claims have only been partly satisfied, further consideration should be given to them. The money was subscribed for a specific purpose, and we believe that the generous contributors to the fund would feel more satisfied to know that all legitimate claims were fully discharged, and that the money raised for that purpose had been used accordingly. . . . Some of us have been heavy losers in clothes, personal effects and so on, in some cases the collection of years, and which we can only hope to replace now by a further gift from the fund.

Is that true, or is it untrue? Our information is that it is true, and if it be, then we put it to the Mayor of Battersea, and to the other gentlemen who are administering this fund, that they are bound to satisfy the legitimate claims of the persons for whom the fund was raised before they think of handing a penny piece over to other Institutions or persons, who, however worthy, are not, in the circumstances, entitled to benefit.

THE MUSICAL EDUCATOR.

A Library of Instruction in Music.

The aim of "The Musical Educator" is to supply, in compact form, a complete Musical Education. Each department of musical knowledge is undertaken by an expert, and the work is an authoritative guide on everything relating to Music and Singing. The illustrations are particularly valuable; they portray the different instruments, attitudes in playing, &c., and include Five beautiful Frontispieces, and Reproductions of valuable Photographs.

We would especially draw attention to the following names of Leaders in the Musical world, and of the subjects for which they are responsible. The practical value of these sections will be apparent to all students and professors of music and singing.

MARK HAMBOURG.

"The Piano and How to Play it."

EDWIN H. LE MARE.

"The Art of Organ-Playing."

MADAME MARCHESI

"The Teaching of Singing."

JOHN DUNN.

"On Playing the Violin."

Dr. F. H. COWEN.

"The Art of Conducting."

The titles of a few of the sections are appended; every section is written by an expert.

Course on Voice Training, Singing, and Solfeccio. Course on the Pianoforte. On the Violin. On Harmonium and American Organ. On the Organ. Lessons on Scientific Basis of Music. On Rudiments of Music. Course on Harmony and Counterpoint. Lessons in Canon and Fugue. Lessons in Musical Forms, Analysis and Composition. Articles on the Instruments used in Orchestras and in Bands. History of Music. Articles on Children's Music and Musical Drill, on Choir Training and Conducting. Article on Congregational Music. Biographical Dictionary of Musicians. Article on Musical Degrees. Nationality in Music.

Appreciations.

Mr. J. Frederick Bridge, Mus. Doc., Organist at Westminster Abbey:

"The 'Musical Educator' is full of useful information plainly set forth. The musical illustrations are excellent."

Mr. Chas. J. Winyard, 29, Aberdeen Terrace, Tyne Dock:

"I find it of inestimable value in the education of my children, and also of great benefit to myself. The lessons are so graded that anyone should be able to make himself efficient by their study."

A FREE BOOKLET.

CAXTON PUBLISHING COMPANY,

SURREY STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, your illustrated prospectus of "The Musical Educator," and particulars of your plan by which the five volumes are delivered for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

Name
(Send this form or a postcard, mentioning JOHN BULL.)

Address

DR. ANDREW WILSON'S REMARKABLE BOOK.

The Modern Physician.

A work that justifies its claim to be a complete guide to the attainment and preservation of health—as well as a practical teacher of the nature and symptoms of all diseases—is a work to be hailed as a household friend. Such a book is "The Modern Physician," by Dr. Andrew Wilson.

The section devoted to Hygiene, otherwise known as preventive medicine, includes the full exposition of the laws of health, and special attention is devoted to physical culture. The important subject of

First Aid and Ambulance Work

is fully treated and lavishly illustrated.

Since a knowledge of the various and marvellous functions of the body in health is necessary to a due understanding of the body when the various organs become deranged by disease, descriptions of every part of the frame will be found in "The Modern Physician," the skeleton muscles, digestive system, heart and lungs, brain and nervous system, organs of sense, skin, kidneys, etc., etc., being fully explained and illustrated.

In this connection the coloured "mannikins" or "dummies," in which the various organs overlap each other precisely as they do in the human body, are very useful in making the reading matter clear.

The section devoted to "The Family Medicine Chest" gives the description, uses and doses of drugs, used as drops, lotions, ointments and gargles.

The Health of Women.

Volume V. (and last) deals entirely with the Health and Diseases of Women. It will be found useful to mothers who wish their daughters to grow up into healthy women. Midwifery and the diseases of infants and children are fully treated.

There is a section devoted to Invalid Cookery, and a complete series of physicians' prescriptions will be found both reliable and useful.

While not claiming to be a complete substitute for the doctor, this work will save its cost in doctor's bills before it has been in use for a month.

Two Opinions.

Dr. Wm. Webb, 102, Queensland Street, Liverpool.

"The Modern Physician" ought to be in every household in the land, and it is certainly no fault of yours should it not be so, for the price at which it is published is reasonable, and the terms of subscription exceptionally easy."

Mr. A. H. Hart, 18, Canbury Park Road, Kingston-on-Thames:

"Three things especially impressed me: The up-to-date character of the work; the simplicity of the language used; and its practical value. It is creditable alike to Editor and Publisher."

A FREE BOOKLET.

CAXTON PUBLISHING COMPANY,

SURREY STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, illustrated booklet on "The Modern Physician," and particulars of your plan whereby the five volumes are delivered for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

Name
(Send this form or a postcard, mentioning JOHN BULL.)

Address

THE CAXTON BALZAC.

The only Complete Edition of
Balzac's works ever issued in
English.

Every sign in the literary history of the age points to it that the time is now ripe for the introduction of English-speaking people to the works of Balzac, an author who, by right of genius, stands alone amongst his contemporaries; a writer whose marvellous knowledge of human nature, justifies the comparison of his productive force with that of Shakespeare.

Balzac saw the good and the bad mingling together in the diverse complications of actual life, and he faithfully recorded what he saw.

He must include the immoral as a portion; only a small portion, not more than we all trust it is in life. So it is well to have the whole of Balzac, that the heights and depths of his genius may be sounded, and that we may share in, and profit by, every phase of his wide outlook on life, and his noble and pitiful readings of its mysteries. Yes, to do this, we must have what has been hitherto unattainable in England—the whole of Balzac.

A Complete Edition.

The issue in English of the only complete edition of the works of Balzac by the Caxton Publishing Company is, therefore, an event the importance of which is fully understood by the book-buyer who has knowledge of book-values.

Type, binding, and paper have all been specially chosen in a style befitting the definitive edition of a standard author.

The illustrations include 265 full-page plates, of which 52 are etchings, printed from the copper plate.

But it is the fact that this is the only complete edition issued in English that the Publishers naturally desire to emphasise.

What "Truth" says.

"The Caxton edition of Balzac's works is the first and only complete edition of this author ever issued in England. It has been my privilege to inspect the fifty-three volumes, which include everything written by Balzac, as classified by M. Michael Levy, the publisher of the French 'Edition Definitive,' according to Balzac's intentions; and I can testify not only to the excellence of translation, but also to the charm of the type, binding, paper, and especially of the exquisite illustrations by famous French artists. I should mention also that they are absolutely unexpurgated, and are translated with fidelity, avoiding the coarseness which is so marked in the works of less skillful translators, although quite foreign to the spirit of Balzac himself. Considered in every light, I am unable to conceive a more satisfactory edition of the great novelist's work, and I have no scintilla of doubt but that this new departure in the Caxton Company's programme will have as great success as those which have preceded it, if not greater."—*Truth*, Dec. 24th.

A FREE BOOKLET.

We have prepared a charming detailed prospectus containing interesting information about Balzac, his life, and his work, which will be sent post free to those who apply for it. It will also tell you all about this Caxton edition—the only complete and unexpurgated edition ever issued in English—and of the very easy terms on which it is supplied.

Caxton Publishing Company,

Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, detailed prospectus of "The Caxton Edition of Balzac."

Name
(Send this form or a postcard, mentioning JOHN BULL.)

Address

THE POLITICAL PILGRIM'S PROGRESS.

By JOHN CORN.

CHAPTER I.

As I walked through the social, political, and religious Wilderness of Great Britain and Ireland, I lighted on a certain place where was a Bed, and I laid me down on that Bed to sleep: and, as I slept, I dreamed a Dream. I dreamed, and behold, I saw a Man in the Street, standing on the curb, with innumerable newspapers in his hand, a top hat on his head and a great Burden upon his back. I looked, and saw him open the newspapers, and read therein; and, as he read, he swore and muttered; and, not being able longer to contain, he brake out with a lamentable cry, saying, "What the devil *am* I to believe?"

In this plight, therefore, he went home and refrained himself as long as he could, that his wife and children should not perceive his distress; but he could not be silent long, because that his trouble increased. Wherefore at length he broke his mind to his wife and children.

"Look here, old girl," he said, "and you kiddes, I am just about tired of this Burden that lieth hard upon me; moreover, I am for certain informed, on the one hand, that this our Empire will be utterly undone by the Conservatives, and on the other that it is doomed to destruction by the Liberals and Socialists; in which fearful overthrow, both myself, with thee, old girl, and the nipper, shall miserably come to ruin, except some way of escape can be found whereby we may be delivered."

At this his relations were sore amazed; not for that they believed that what he had said to them was true, but because they thought that maybe one small Bass too many had got into his head; therefore, it drawing towards night, and they hoping that sleep might settle his brains, with all haste they got him to bed.

But the night was as troublesome to him as the day; wherefore, instead of sleeping, he spent it in grunts and groans. So, when the morning was come, they would know how he did. He told them, Worse and worse. He also set to talking to them again; but they began to be bored. Sometimes they would deride, sometimes they would gibe, and sometimes they would give him cold mutton two days running, and neglect to warm his slippers. Wherefore, he began to retire himself to the pub round the corner to assuage his misery and thirst with a Lloyd George whisky.

Now, I saw upon a time, when he was walking in the park, that he was, as he was wont, reading the newspaper, and greatly distressed in mind; and, as he read, he burst out, as he had done before, crying, "What the devil *am* I to believe?"

I saw also that he looked this way and that way, as if he would run; yet he could not tell which way to go. I looked then, and saw a man named Commonsense coming to him, who asked, "Wherefore dost thou cry?"

He answered, "Sir, I perceive by the newspapers in my hand that the British nation in any case is doomed to destruction; and I find that I am not willing that it should be so, nor able to decide how to prevent it."

Then said Commonsense, "Why should the nation not die, since it is the ultimate of all nations so to do?"

The Man in the Street answered, "Because I am a patriot, and if this Burden were off my back I could do something to restore the happiness of my country."

Then said Commonsense, "If this be thy condition, why standest thou still?"

He answered, "Because I know not what to do."

Then Commonsense gave him a parchment roll, and there was written within, *Join the John Bull League*.

The Man in the Street read it, and said, "Whither must I go to do this?"

Then said Commonsense, pointing with his finger towards Long Acre, "Do you see Number 67?"

He said, "I think I do."

Then said Commonsense, "Go up directly thereto, at which, when thou appliest at the office on the first floor, it shall be told thee what thou shalt do."

So I saw in my dream that the man began to run. Now, he had not run far from his own door, but his wife and children, perceiving it, began to cry after him to return; but the man put his fingers in his ears, and ran on, crying, "*Join the John Bull League! Join the League!*" So he looked not behind him, but fled towards Long Acre.

(To be continued.)

A SWANKY RESERVE.

By AN OFFICER'S DAD.

I pulled out my cheque-book, and with a slap opened it; from my waistcoat I drew my stylo and clicked it together.

"Another cheque!" I asked, with the indignation which jumps naturally on these occasions. "What's this for?"

My son removed his cigarette from between his lips.

"Mess bill this time," he rejoined, cheerfully.

"Mess bill!" I exclaimed in alarm. "But how about your pay, with four shillings a day mess allowance for this especial purpose. Where's that?"

"You've just hit it," he replied. "That's exactly the point at issue. Where is it?"

"But surely," I remonstrated, laying down my pen in amazement, "you have been paid? Every British officer is paid promptly; that's one of the boasts of the nation."

"Is it?" he queried. "I'm very glad to hear it; with all due respect to you, Dad, I'm not one of those that have been settled with. It's all very well to say I'm a British officer, but you must remember I'm only in the Reserve—the Royal Reserve."

"Yes, but the Royal Reserve is an integral part of the Army now, and is paid regularly when employed. Why, the men are paid daily on parade—I know it!"

"Yes," added my son, cynically, "and the officers when they happen to think of it."

"Nonsense, Jack," I exclaimed, "nonsense; why, the new regulations for the Royal Reserve are most explicit about the officers' pay."

"Look here," he explained, "this is late November, at the end of last September I finished a course of instruction at Aldershot, and up to the present I have not received a penny-piece for it."

"But you have asked for it, surely?"

"Well, you see," he explained, "it's not the proper swank to ask about your pay. It was never done in the old Militia. No one ever bothered about his pay; it was looked upon as a month's skylarking, with bridge and champagne, and nobody bothered except the Adjutant."

"Did he bother much?"

"Well, all his energies were concentrated on the march past, you see, and he thought of nothing else—as long as that was all right nobody bothered to learn anything else. You see, it was not the swanky thing to do."

"And you think the same swank," I remarked, "prevails to a certain extent in Mr Haldane's Royal Reserve?"

"Undoubtedly; of course, there is more work done now and the whole affair more in earnest; still, no one would think of bothering about his pay."

"It would not be the proper swank?" I suggested.

"Certainly not."

I took up a letter he had laid on my table side by side with his fifteen pounds mess bill; it was from the Officer Commanding the unit to which he had been attached for instruction, requesting him to pay his mess bill, with the addition of 5 per cent. interest for being overdue.

"Then it amounts to this," I commented, "the military authorities have not paid you, yet they are pressing you to pay a bill incurred in their interests, on their distinct promise of payment."

"That's about it."

"How about the workman and his hire?"

"You'd never think of mentioning that."

I wrote to that Commanding Officer, asking him what would be the result if my son stuck out for his pay, and made a point of not paying his mess bill until he got it.

The Commanding Officer wrote me back pages. He was evidently unburdening his mind. He referred me to various—to me—unintelligible regulations, which I subsequently found were made for the officers of the Regular Army, who are paid in advance. Finally, he informed me in answer to my query that if my son did not pay his mess bill, he would be "cashiered."

That was weeks ago, and still no pay has arrived. A notification, however, has come stating that when the happy day arrives and he is paid, his lodging allowance will be knocked off, "for," though he was denied quarters and had to sleep out in a farmhouse, "yet these were, technically speaking, quarters!"

"And who has paid the mess bill?" you will ask.

Why, the Swanky Father, of course.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESSFUL GARDENING.

How to obtain Beautiful Blooms and Perfect Crops.

Some Timely Hints for Every Nature Lover and Garden Culturist.

THE GREATEST BRITISH SEED SPECIALISTS ARE GIVING AWAY OVER 1,000,000 BOOKS.

Within the last ten or twenty years there has been a most marked increase of interest in gardening, especially amongst those of limited means, and with but little ground, and it is simply wonderful what remarkable results have been achieved by those whose plots of soil are but slight in area.

There are reasons for all things, and there is a very real reason for this. Without any doubt the spirited and intelligent policy of the greatest of all firms of seed specialists—Ryder and Son, of Holywell Hill, St. Albans—has played the most significant part in producing this welcome development.

Not only have they applied themselves to teaching the novice, or slightly instructed gardener, the secrets of successful gardening, but they have placed within the reach of everyone's means the power of procuring the best seeds of every description, whether for flower or vegetable garden, at the merely nominal cost of one penny.

Not that Ryders' have done this in any philanthropic spirit—nothing of the kind, for their commercial instinct is as keen as could be desired, but they are a progressive firm and move with

The Spirit of the Times.

Hence it is that years ago they originated a system whereby supplies of seeds of all varieties—seed the most superior and excellent procurable—could be obtained from them

in Penny Packets.

It is an absolute fact that all seeds which leave Ryders' warehouse have been subjected to the most critical and painstaking examination.

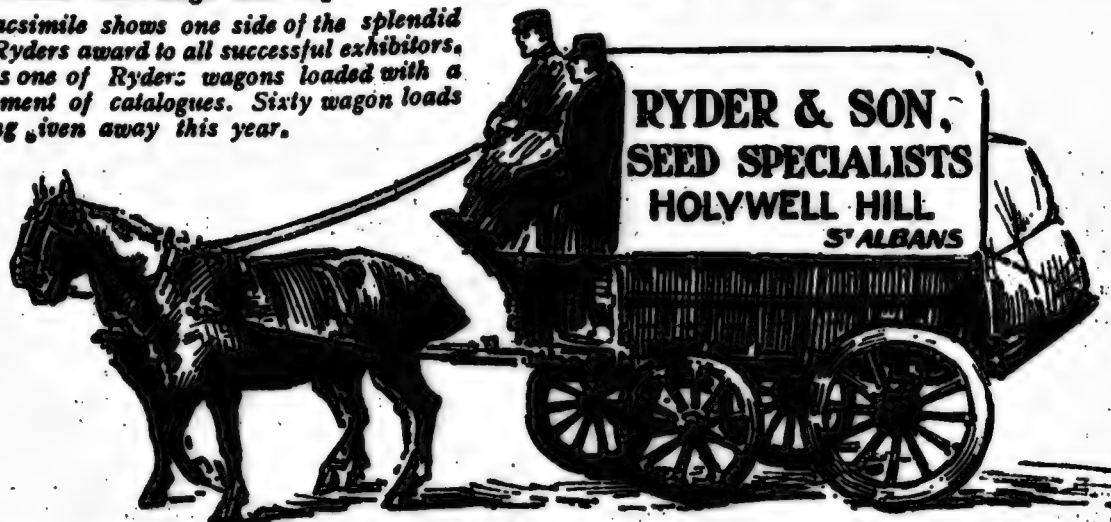
And remember that all Ryder's seeds are grown only from the finest pedigree stocks.

Many of the largest and biggest garden proprietors and professional gardeners go to Ryders' for their seeds, knowing full well that they could not possibly do better elsewhere.

One of the essentials for successful gardening is knowing how and when to sow the seed, just what to do in the way of attention to it, and how to assist the young plant in the earlier stages of its life.

Here Ryders are of the utmost practical help to all. With every penny packet sold they give full cultural notes, and beyond that always lay their unrivalled knowledge and experience at the command of every inquirer.

This facsimile shows one side of the splendid medal Ryders award to all successful exhibitors. Below is one of Ryders' wagons loaded with a consignment of catalogues. Sixty wagon loads are being given away this year.



Ryders' Remarkable Enterprise.

The extent of their enterprise can be judged from the fact that this year they are circulating more than 1,000,000 of their great 1910 Catalogue.

Figures are not always easily grasped, but this remarkable number is better understood when it is realised that no less than 60 wagon loads, such as in the illustration, will be dispatched from St. Albans within the course of the season.

A Ryder Catalogue is not an ordinary Catalogue—it becomes a book of reference for the whole of the year and a precious addition to the gardener's library.

Ryders' invitation is a perfectly free one, and imposes no obligation upon the applicant. On receipt of a postcard giving name and address their Catalogue is at once forwarded post free to any part of the world.

The figures quoted afford an adequate idea of the magnitude of Ryders' business—a business which was inaugurated nearly 50 years ago on the soundest lines and which ever since has adhered to just, straightforward, and honest dealings.

Ryders never substitute seeds. What you want you have, or back comes your money in full.

Ryders never keep you waiting—whether you order a poundsworth or a pennyworth, you get the seeds by return.

Ryders' seeds never disappoint you; not only do they grow, but they produce unequalled results.

Do you want the brightest of blooms, flowers of radiant glory of tone, of unexcelled perfume, of perfect proportions and foliage? Then Ryders' seeds supply your needs.

Do you want the richest and fullest of crops in your kitchen garden, crops which are of the heaviest in quantity, and the most superior in quality? Then you must go to Ryders' for your seeds.

Their Personal Interest is Your Success.

If your flowers or produce win awards at an exhibition or show, Ryders' present you with one of their own commemoration medals of handsome design and artistic finish.

In the illustration is a facsimile of their medal, and last year they had the great pleasure of presenting no fewer than 300 of these awards. Surely an eloquent testimony to the excellence of their seeds.

The season of spring is coming, and the minds of all garden lovers are set on seeds.

Ryders proffer everyone a sound word of advice.

Select your seeds now. Don't procrastinate—don't put off ordering just because the weather may be wet at the moment. To-morrow or the day after may be glorious—just like you would wish it to be, and you would feel cross with yourself for not being able to take advantage of it.

NOW, NOW—NOW is the time—Ryders say this from the best of motives, and you will appreciate their statement.

Again, by ordering promptly you avoid the possibility of the particular seed you require being run out of stock. Don't court disappointment, but take time by the forelock.

Yours for the Asking.

One final word more concerning the Catalogue. Send for this to-day, so that you can peruse its useful 60 odd pages to-morrow.

Take immediate advantage of this offer of the greatest firm of British seed specialists, and send your postcard at once for the new 1910 Catalogue which Ryder and Son willingly proffer to all who would like it.

Be Sure and Address your Postcard to—

RYDER & SON, the Seed Specialists, Holywell Hill, St. Albans.
BEWARE OF THE MANY FIRMS OF MUSHROOM GROWTH WHO IMITATE RYDERS.

ART ALLIED TO ADVERTISING.

(Being a three weeks' course of training supplied by the latest Correspondence College.)

LESSON I.

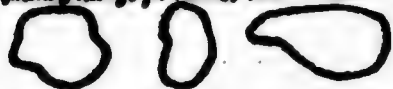
DEAR PUPIL,

I have received your cheque for 100 guineas preliminary fee, which will be all right for a start. In reply to your enquiry, it may be possible for you to do better poster work than Mr. Hassall under the three weeks' prescribed course, but much will depend on yourself. Some pupils are quicker than others.

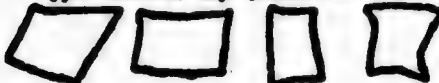
And now for your First Lesson.

A STRAIGHT LINE (very useful)

CIRCLES
(Handy things for Faces, Cars, Wheels etc.)



SQUARES
(For Houses, Top Hats, etc. etc.)



You will need a box of water-colours. These are made in Germany, but can be bought at any fancy shop for 4½d. There will be a brush in the box, and there should be a little china dish to mix your colours. An H.B. pencil will cost you another ½d., an exercise book can

be got for 1d., and you can easily borrow a piece of india-rubber, so you see that you get your complete outfit for 6d.

I want to save you all the expense I can, as there will be another cheque due at the end of the week. If you have not done much artistic work up to now, perhaps you had better spend the first week in making careful copies of the studies I now enclose.

Encouragingly yours,

YOUR MASTER.

LESSON II.

DEAR PUPIL,

I am glad you have been able to copy more or less faithfully the studies I sent you.

I am sorry your india-rubber is wearing out. Perhaps it would be cheaper in the end to buy this wholesale.

Yes; I think you are ready now for something more advanced, but keep pegging away at Lesson I. Sandow will help you with your physique if the work makes your muscles too tired.

You complain that I haven't started you on colours yet, but now that you have mastered the mere drawing I am sure you may with confidence

POLICEMEN'S FEET
(Indispensable)



begin using your paint box. You must get the cook to lend you an egg-cup and fill it three parts up with clean water—no spirits. Fill your

brush and rub it on the cakes of colour and then you may tint the designs I am sending you for your second week's work. Of course you will never put the brush in your mouth. That is a dirty habit only indulged in by novices.

Thanks for the hundred guinea cheque to hand. I wish all my pupils were as quick to learn as you are.

Delightedly yours,

YOUR MASTER.

LESSON III.

DEAR PUPIL,

You are indeed making remarkable progress! You have now mastered in a fortnight the whole art of designing and colouring—many artists take quite twice the time, I can assure you—and may well be proud of your investment. When I receive your third remittance I shall share your pride.

All you will need at the end of your third week will be the commissions for poster-work. This is where your personal efforts will be invaluable.

I am sending a complete poster for you to copy—it is supposed to be in the best Hassall style, and you will only need to use two colours—a great saving in paint. Let me have your copy of this—a your final hundred guinea cheque—at the end of the week. Everything will then be plain sailing for you.

I have one request to make ere you become famous. Kindly tell all your friends how well I have coached you, and if you can send me along any more pupils I shall be delighted to do for them, as I have done you.

Satisfactorily yours,

YOUR MASTER.

YOUNG MOORE'S MONTHLY PROPHECY.

MARCH.

The general indications for the month of March are far from propitious. In Ursa Major will be seen a large planetary Nebula, appearing as a mass of attenuated light. This indistinct and undefined apparition of more or less luminous gas signifies that the annual assembly of parish meetings in rural parishes will take place during this month.

On the 1st the sun will be 12 min. 38 secs. after the clock. In consequence thereof the borough auditors will be elected.

On the 4th Venus will be stationary, owing to the progress of the County Councils' triennial elections, which will conclude on the 8th, when Venus will resume her wonted activity, coming into conjunction with the moon at 9.17 p.m.

There are ominous signs that the 25th will be a day of mourning, of weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth—at least, on the part of those privileged mortals who, in these degenerate days, are fortunate enough to possess some to gnash. The moon will rise at 57 minutes past 5 in the afternoon, and will shine down upon a land of woe. The previous day will have seen heavily-laden vans hastening in all directions. The night before will have wrapped a kindly cloak of gloom around the surreptitious proceedings of many households. There will have been a hurrying to and fro, and a hastening up and down stairs. Strange whispers will have been heard in the night. And in the morning many a habitation will stand empty and forlorn before the gaze of many a trustful landlord who, too late, had a premonition of what was likely to occur, and had walked round to see if everything was all right. In other words, the 25th of March will be Quarter Day, so called because so many people at that time change their quarters.

To hark back a moment, the 15th will be a day of rejoicing for the feathered inhabitants of these islands. I am not alluding to the infatuated women who have become slaves to the "Chantecler" fashions, but to the wild birds, for whom it will be close time until August 1st.

The voice of the cuckoo will be heard in the land. [When is it not?—Ed.]

SOME CURIOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

EVERYBODY is crazy after Kilpane, the great toothache cure.

WANTED, the girl who helped the lady with a leg down a coal-hole on Sunday afternoon, &c.

NOVEMBER 5.—Notice.—No person can be supplied with fireworks under 13 years of age.

FOR SALE, spotted Dalmatian doctor's carriage dog, cheap.

LOST, Sable Collie Dog, with white breast, neck, and two front feet.

ROOMS TO LET on fifth floor for instructions in operatic singing.

CUSTOMERS can have our celebrated teak-and-kidney pies by post.

WANTED, Distressed Lady, to mind Elderly Lady, make herself generally useful about house; salary, £7 to £5 a year.



"John Bull" said—

in last week's issue, that "upon memory depend insight, foresight, and that 'business sense' by which a man not only sees, but can seize opportunity."

Everybody knows that "business sense" is a qualification essential to success, whatever one's occupation or position. Readers of "John Bull" in particular are alert enough to appreciate the value of any system which will help them to cultivate the business sense, and thus enhance their market value and earning power. That is

Why Hundreds of Readers having seen, are eagerly seizing the opportunity announced last week of securing the complete course of memory-training by the world-famous Pelman System for £1. 11. 6. instead of £3. 3. 0.

Even a Confirmed Sceptic if he fairly tests it, will be convinced that the Pelman System can, and does, develop the business sense by improving the memory, stimulating the faculties, and increasing mental efficiency and power to an astonishing degree attainable by no other method. This is because the Pelman System is a scientific application of nature's laws to the development of the natural memory.

"John Bull" Advises it "We have carefully investigated the genuineness of the Pelman System, and have no hesitation in advising our readers to take the course of lessons."—From "John Bull," March 23rd, 1907.

You, Sir, owe it to yourself and to those who may be dependent upon you to accept our half-fees offer *now* before it is withdrawn, because a course of training by the Pelman System cannot fail to enhance your ability, and greater ability means better work, and better work means better pay.

However Clever You may be your brain has not yet reached the full limit of its power—it is capable of greater expansion than you can have any idea of. The Pelman System will increase your mental efficiency to an extent which will surprise and delight you. Work that has hitherto been tedious and fatiguing, it will enable you to do with ease and accuracy.

We make no Extravagant Claims as to the benefit you would derive from the Pelman System of Training. Everything we say it can do it has done in not merely a few, but in literally thousands of cases in all parts of the world—we have letters from pupils to prove it.

The Easy and Interesting Exercises comprising the course may be done in any spare moments, or while you are at work, without interfering with it, but on the contrary enabling you to do it better.

Mind-wandering Permanently Cured is one of the chief advantages of taking the Pelman course. Work that is now drudgery becomes a pleasure. Brain-fag becomes a thing of the past. Depression and inertia give place to mental control and vigour. Inattention, confusion of mind, slowness of thought yield to concentration, clear and rapid thinking, and consequent precision in expressing one's thoughts. There is no kin of brain work which a course of training by the Pelman System will not enable you to do better. Moreover, it enlarges the outlook and capacity for pleasure, and enables one to listen intelligently and converse interestingly.

You cannot afford to wait

The special offer cannot remain open indefinitely. It is made in order to extend to everyone an opportunity hitherto limited to the well-to-do; and for the sake of advertisement. We do not ask you to accept it until you have thoroughly investigated it, and satisfied yourself that it is too good to neglect. Send to-day for a free copy of the Pelman Booklet giving full particulars—use the coupon or a postcard.

Address The Secretary,
The Pelman School of Memory,
15, Wenham House, Bloomsbury St., London, W.C.

Use This Coupon (or send a post-card).

To the Secretary,
Pelman School of Memory,
15, Wenham House, Bloomsbury Street,
London, W.C.

Please send free booklet and special half-fee enrolment form offered to readers of "John Bull."

Name

Address

.....

DEATH.

By JIM CROW.

[Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective; cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.]

This is a topic which has often been suggested to me but which I have long shrunk from considering. I have studied all systems of theology and negations of theology, but am unable to contemplate any form or development of death which is otherwise than repulsive.

FORMS OF DEATH.

I have never fully understood the petition in the Litany against battle, murder, and sudden death. All lives which are really lived are a species of battle. The killing of enemies or other evil men is not necessarily a breach of the Sixth Commandment. As for sudden death, it must afford a relief from all the anxious moments and mental torture of a prolonged agony. Which would you prefer—to linger on a bed of horrible sickness for months and years, or to perish swiftly by the sword? No doubt, many other preachers have dwelt upon the necessity of preparation and the life to come. In their view, it is very good to pass through a year or two of fever and debility, choking with microbes or spitting blood, and submitting to the ministrations of the clergy. But an unsound body pre-supposes an unsound mind incapable of spiritual development, and in my innocence, I imagine that an unsound mind may breed an unsound soul. Let us rather regard our whole lives as a preparation for eternity, for eternal bliss. If the Elysian fields, or the happy hunting-grounds, or Paradise, or Heaven, is the one great object, if life is brief and the future state continues for ever, let us fit ourselves for it either by human love or by hunting or frequent practice on the harp. Then we shall not fear death, but shall go forth and meet our enemies with a sublime consciousness that all our ideals, however low, however material, however eccentric, are destined to be realised and developed for ever and ever. Sudden death will then send us forth to

meet the full gratification of all our desires, whereas a lingering illness will only impair our capacity.

A GOOD DEATH.

I am not sure whether a fantastic end to the existence can be relied upon to attain our desires. There was the Duke of Clarence, who chose to be drowned in a butt of Malmsey. No doubt he knew his end had come, and he merely chose this particular one because it sounded like a suitable passport to his favourite pleasure in the next world. Having evidently been somewhat of a toper, or, at least, having possessed a critical taste in wine, he persuaded himself that he would lay a claim for a continuation of carouses hereafter. But drowning in wine must be detrimental to the enjoyment of its aroma, and I should not be surprised if, when he reached the portals of Paradise, he found Malmsey utterly distasteful for ever. Here, however, for once, the wisdom of the ancients is not with me. Hafiz, for instance, expresses aspirations to be thrust at last into a butt of wine. But he can scarcely have been regarded as orthodox, seeing that he also exhorted his companions to sell their prayer-carpets and buy instead a jug of wine.

SCAFFOLD ETIQUETTE.

Some persons have exhibited a serious objection to being hanged, and have implored their judges for decapitation because they regarded this as a privilege of gentility. Most of us, however, would see little to choose between either termination of life except that, in one case, the executioner might not have a very good aim with his axe. This, however, would have the alleged advantage of extending time for meditation and repentance, even for the arrival of a reprieve.

DELAYS ARE NOT DANGEROUS.

I have often wondered how I should behave on a scaffold, and I have come to the conclusion that dilatory tactics would be the wisest. I should take an unconscionable time over my last cup of coffee; I should engage in learned arguments with my executioner as to the best methods of pinioning; and my prayers would be unduly prolonged. Meanwhile, for all I knew to the contrary, a swift messenger might be on his way from the Home Secretary with a promise of a new trial, or royal armies might be entering

Somerville's

Scotch Whisky

(the finest that Scotland can produce)

at wholesale prices direct from Scotland

Packing Free.

Special terms for exportation
and to large buyers.

In the event of the Government refunding
any of the duty now charged on Spirits,
we shall repay the proportionate amount.

Guaranteed Ages**4 Years Old****6 Years Old****10 Years Old****POST FREE****3 BOTS.****9/6****11/-****12/6****Carriage paid to nearest railway station.****6 BOTS.****18/6****21/6****24/6****12 BOTS.****36/-****42/-****48/-**

Fill up the Order Form and post to us with your remittance **TO-DAY.**

John Somerville & Co., Ltd.**Distillers,****Craigmillar, Edinburgh,****Established 1826.****ORDER FORM.**

To Messrs. JOHN SOMERVILLE & Co., LTD.,
Distillers, Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

I enclose remittance value.....for which please
send me.....bottles of your Specially Selected
Fully Guaranteed.....years old Scotch Whisky on con-
dition that if it is not the finest Whisky I have
ever tasted at the price I shall be entitled to
have my money refunded. J.B 26, 2 10.

Name.....

Address.....

POST FREE
SAMPLE HALF-BOTTLES.

4 years old . . 1/9

6 " " . . 2/-

10 " " . . 2/3

the town to deliver me from the rebels. But I do not think I should be afraid.

WHERE IS THY STING ?

After all, what is there to fear in death ? Either it is the end of all things or the beginning of bliss. The fear of pain is quite another proposition, and I have no doubt that I should shrink and tremble and scream if I saw a Red Indian preparing his pincers, or a black Servian stalking me with sandbags, or a herd of yellow men in consultation over the nameless tortures which they proposed to inflict. Even then, however, I am certain that fear would be a mistake, a voluntary addition of suspense to the discomforts in store, a diminution of the powers of resistance in the human body.

SUICIDE.

I have never quite made up my mind about suicide. So far as I know, there is not one religious code which forbids it. In fact, it was distinctly encouraged in the Old Testament ; various teachers and philosophers have advocated it. No doubt, many modern theologians are against it, but they are not infallible ; many of them, indeed, support the British Sunday and other absurdities. My life is mine : why should I not do what I please with it ? It may be very foolish to sacrifice my ambitions, very unkind to terminate my career of philanthropy. But I join issue when I am told that it would be cowardly. On the contrary, I think it would require a great deal of determination to take my life. For one thing, most of the methods in vogue are uncertain and sticky. Throat-cutting, for instance, is disgusting ; blowing out brains is untidy ; falling on a sword might only lead to troublesome surgery ; the French plan of asphyxiation with charcoal arouses suspicions ; jumping into the river is unnecessarily violent. Poisoning, of course is much simpler, but you require a certain amount of medical lore to discover a really pleasant poison, and, even then, the chemist or the publican may refuse to serve you. If I ever do make up my mind to commit suicide, I believe I shall have to sell my prayer-carpet and buy the right brand of the " old familiar juice."

O ! CROW, LIVE FOR EVER !

Meanwhile, I do not entirely abandon hope that somebody will some day discover an elixir to enable me to live for ever. Think of all the great things I might accomplish during the next thousand years ! If death were really intended to be the inevitable lot of all, how much pleasanter it would be never to have seen the light. Remember how horrible death is, how damp, how ghastly, how unresponsive ! As Omar said before he was transfigured by Fitzgerald :

" Drink wine ! for I have told you a thousand times there is no return for you. When you are gone, you are gone ! "

This, after all, is much better philosophy than the unwelcome injunction to " turn down an empty glass."

"JERSEY JUSTICE."

A correspondent sends us one of the latest instances of Jersey justice. It seems that several posters appeared on the walls of the town of St. Heliers which ran as follows :—

Jersey men insist on the Laws of the Island being justly observed, and protest against the outrageous decision of the States in the Mirehouse case.

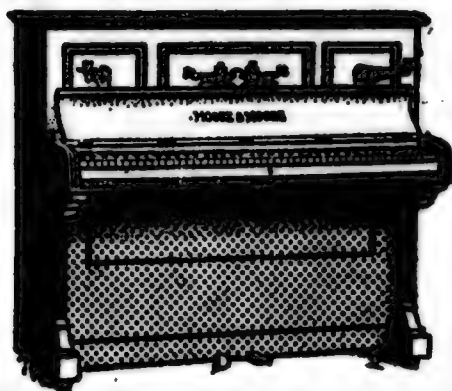
Elect honest and independent men to represent you, and who will draw the attention of the proper Authority to the gross violation of the Laws.

This would seem mild criticism enough on the occasion of an election, but the last paragraph so greatly shocked the Attorney-General that he required the printers of the poster to give him the name of its author, whose arrest has been ordered, he being guilty in the opinion of the Attorney-General of " a grave and calumnious allegation against the States of this Island."

What next ?

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER ?

See page iii. of Cover.



THIS Excellent Piano—The famous model—will be sent to your home for 30 days' trial. If you like it you pay £19:13:9 cash or payments of 14/- a month ; if not, there is no charge whatsoever—we take the piano away. A fair offer.

Write for full particulars
and our complete Catalogue
We send FREE to any address

MOORE & MOORE

64, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.

The Famous British Piano Manufacturers
Established 1838 Telephone: 670 Central

Every Modern Man and Woman

should have a Banking Account, and write his or her own Cheques. To do this it is no longer necessary to keep a large balance at the Bank

FARROW'S BANK,
Limited,

THE PEOPLE'S BANK.

Will open a current account for you with £5 and upwards, and pay 2½ per cent. interest on credit balance.

You will find that by having a banking account and a cheque book you must save money, because you make out a cheque for the exact amount you have to pay. Whereas when changing gold you are apt to put the surplus change in your pocket, and so spend it unnecessarily.

THE MODERN SYSTEM

of having a cheque book will therefore increase your savings, and also keep a check on all your accounts. Send for a 40-page Illustrated Booklet report and balance sheet, post free.

Head Office :

1, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.

Sub-Branches and Agencies in every County of the United Kingdom.

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Lord Rosebery.

DEAR MY LORD,—Congratulations on your invectives against the Party system. But weren't you pulling the leg of our good friend, Mr. Cox? You stated, for instance, that from the moment he criticised the Budget, his doom was sealed. But others have criticised the Budget and still survive. And then your reference to the "silent vote"! You say that it determines every election, and that Mr. Cox represents it. If so, how did it come to pass that he found himself at the bottom of the poll? Then you went on to compare it somewhat inelegantly to fleas, who, if they were more skilfully organised, would be able to pull their victims out of bed! This was all the more infelicitous when we remember that Mr. Cox has been thrown out! I notice that you consider the country has not expressed an opinion on Free Trade v. Tariff Reform, and that you would have a "Royal Commission" to settle it. That is precisely what I would expect from you, seeing that a Royal Commission never settled anything. Why won't you wake up and come and help us?

JOHN BULL.

To the Sister Superior, St. Anne's Home for Crippled and Invalid Children.

DEAR LADY,—With great regret I hear of the death in the Home of a paralysed child from injuries received while being bathed by one of the nurses. Practically the child was scalded to death. It was stated in evidence at the inquest that instead of testing the bath water with a thermometer, the nurse on duty merely tested it with her hand. I do hope that in the future you will issue imperative instructions for the bath water to be tested by thermometer, so that errors of judgment of this kind may be prevented. I gather that hitherto there has been no such rule in force, though I should have supposed that none would know better than the nurses of the Home that to try the temperature by hand of water in which more or less helpless, invalid, and crippled children are to be bathed, is utterly misleading and dangerous. See to it.

To Sir W. A. Gelder, M.P., Chairman Licensing Committee, Hull.

SIR,—From certain remarks you made at the last meeting of the Hull Licensing Committee, I gather that you and certain others of the justices are exceedingly shocked "by the habitual use of pianolas, gramophones, and other musical instruments" in public-houses, and that you have instructed the Chief Constable "to take such proceedings as he may be advised" in the matter.

While you are in London it is probable that, subject, of course, to the permission of the Parliamentary Whip, you will occasionally leave the House to lunch or dine at one of the fashionable restaurants, to the accompaniment of the cornet, the fiddle, the flute, the oboe, the clarinet, the 'cello, and the grand piano. At times, sir, it may even be that you will be allowed out for afternoon tea in a café, where you will take your light refreshment to the strains of the witching waltz, or the catchy cake-walk, or the soulful symphony. On these occasions I assure myself that you will arise after repletion without a stain on your character. There is no less reason to believe that the customers of any Hull publican who sets in motion the musical instruments will be either debased or debauched.

The truth is, sir, the treatment of the publican in this country resolves itself into legalised blackmail on the one hand, and illegitimate repression on the other. He carries on his business in the intricate mazes of statutes, common law, local law, "unwritten law," police practice, and magisterial requirements, predilections, precedents, admonitions, and threats. If he lives on his premises, he forfeits many of the rights common to other British citizens in their own homes. He is watched and spied on by societies for the reformation of other people's morals, often betrayed into loss of his business by the casual blunders of those who serve him, or the deliberate machinations of his enemies. Here he must have no music; there he must not even set up skittles; yonder he must not hold a fancy dress ball, or a whist drive. And all the while the State is bleeding him for millions of annual revenue. In all the circumstances, it is remarkable that a man with any capital at his command is willing to embark in the business.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. R. H. Hart Davis, J.P., and Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Powell, J.P., Caversham.

GENTLEMEN,—I am rather at a loss to understand a recent sentence inflicted by you on a Mortimer woman named Maslem. According to the report in the *Reading Mercury*, she was walking about the streets of Caversham, and subsequently she applied to a local police inspector for assistance, stating that she had come to visit an aunt, but had failed to find her, and that she had been in service in Basingstoke. On this the inspector took her to the police station, telephoned to Basingstoke, and finding that there was no truth in what she said, charged her with wandering without any visible means of subsistence and failing to give a satisfactory account of herself. Subsequently brought before the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis on that charge, he remanded her for further inquiries. The next day she appeared before you both, and on this occasion the inspector said he had inquired at Mortimer and had discovered that the woman bore a very bad character. You then sentenced her to three months' imprisonment.

There do not appear to have been any convictions against her, and all you could possibly know of her bad character was from the hearsay evidence tendered by an inspector. The sum and substance of the offence which brought her into your jurisdiction was that she was seen walking about the streets and was destitute. But that offence obviously could not merit so monstrous a sentence. I am therefore led to the conclusion that you, Rev. Sir, and you, Rear-Admiral, actually sentenced her to three months in gaol because you were determined to "make an example" of a woman who, in your minds, was walking the streets of Caversham for purposes neither charged nor proved, nor suggested even. What have you to say?

JOHN BULL.

To His Honour Judge Bacon.

DEAR JUDGE,—Your incorrigible sense of humour seems to be leading you into dangerous paths, and I notice that your latest exploit has been to make a brutal mockery of a lady who could not disguise her emotion on the loss of a favourite dog. I do not agree with you as to the urgent necessity of allowing tradesmen's motor vans to travel at an excessive speed, but even if I did, I should still insist upon compelling their drivers to take ordinary precautions to avoid running over valuable animals. It is idle to ask whether a driver "ought to wait in a state of rustic ease while a dog completes its private arrangements before it proceeds up a street?" By making a statement of this kind, you prove yourself to be singularly devoid of common-sense.

JOHN BULL.

To Chief Constable Dunning, Liverpool.

DISTINGUISHED SIR,—Referring to the Liverpool police at the Inquiry into the recent religious riots in your city, I notice you expressed the opinion that it was not reasonable to expect the manners of a Chesterfield with the wisdom of a Solomon for 25s. a week. Beyond question, however, the public do expect a lot for their money, even if they don't get it, and as a compromise in the case, I suggest that the outfit of the policeman should be the dutifulness of a Nelson combined with the veracity of a Washington.

JOHN BULL.

To G. N. Barnes, Esq., House of Commons.

DEAR BARNES,—Just a word to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of the Labour Party in Parliament. You are just the man for the post—earnest, pleasant, and broad-minded—and you don't preach! But you must not speak for your party without its authority! I shall watch with interest, and always with sympathy, its development in your hands. Good luck.

JOHN BULL.

Right Hon. Winston S. Churchill, M.P.

Hearty congratulations on promotion to new office. You will now be more at "Home."

BULL.

Little Bess, Westminster.

Congratulations. Any truth in rumour you had threatened to "strike"?

BULL.

ACCEPTED OR REJECTED?



DOES SHE MEAN IT?

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

BY VERAX.

RUBBER BOOM MORE ACTIVE THAN EVER AFTER A PROFIT-TAKING SPELL—NECESSITY OF DISCRIMINATING AMONGST THE NEW RUBBER FLOTATIONS.

Although there has been a good deal of profit-taking in Rubber shares during the week, the market has easily absorbed the sales, and the public are as keen buyers as ever, with the result that prices have further improved. As long as investors go into the high-class dividend payers, they cannot go far wrong, but the promiscuous subscribing for the new companies, most of which are very doubtful, if not bad, is to be deprecated, and investors should fight shy of the lot. One of the features of the week has been the sharp rise in *Rubber Plantation Investment Trust Shares* on Saturday from 40s. to 48s. premium on the issue of a circular by the directors recommending the increase of the authorised capital to £1,000,000, thus doubling the number of shares in order to be able to take advantage of opportunities for extending. The balance of 10s. on the existing shares is to be called up at once and the shareholders will receive a bonus by the allotment of 202,500 shares of £1 each, 10s. called up, at a premium of 20s. per share. Hence the jump in the shares. *Linggi* have also been active up to 41s. 6d. on favourable dividend rumours, and this is undoubtedly the premier company. Movements in other leading shares which I have from time to time recommended will be gathered from the following comparative table:—

	Denomina- tion of Shares.	Price, Oct. 30, 1909.	Price, Feb. 2, 1910.	Price, Feb. 21, 1910.
Cleely Ordinary	2s.	24s.	35s. 6d.	36s. d.
" Prefr.	2s.	25s.	35s. 6d.	39s.
Inch Kenneth	£1	6½	9½	10½
Selangor	2s.	36s. 9d.	45s.	49s. 6d.
North Hummock	£1	1 15-16 pm.	3 p.m.	2½ pm.
Linggi Plantation	—	—	37s.	42s.
Highlands and Lowlands ..	£1	2½ pm.	5	5 1-16
Samatra Para	2s.	6s.	10s. 3d.	10s. 9d.
Perak	£1	3 7-16	4 13-16	4½
Sungei Krutta	£1	4s. 6d. pm.	½ pm.	11-16 pm.
Jong Landor	£1	4s. pm.	11-16 pm.	½ pm.
Jugra Lands	£1	25s.	28s. 6d.	30s.
Carey United	£1	½ pm.	½ pm.	13-16 pm.
Straits (Bertam)	£1	33s. 6d.	63s. 6d.	72s. 6d.
Sekong	£1	8s. 6d. pm.	½ pm.	1 pm.
Kellias Ordinary	£1	1 1-16	1½	2½
Castlefields	£1	2½	4½	4½
Glen Bervie	£1	7-16 pm.	½ pm.	13-16 pm.
Java United	£1	1½	1 7-16	1½
Malacca Ordinary	£1	9s.	9½	9½
Rubber F.I. Trust	£1	13s. pm.	21s. 6d. pm.	49s. pm.
" Options	—	11s.	25s.	32s.
Jequié Rubbers	2s.	3s. 10½d.	12s. 9d.	13s.
West Jequié	—	—	4s. 9d. pm.	5s. pm.
Merton Rubber Syndicate ..	£1	1 9-16	1½	2½
Madagascar Rubber Estates ..	£1	—	1½ pm.	2½ pm.
Chersonese Options	—	9d.	2s. 3d.	3s.
Molesworth Bros.	2s.	—	2s. 9d.	4s. 4½d.
Ivory Coast	£1	—	1-16 pm.	½ pm.

Madagascar Prefrs., after touching 3 premium, are now at 2½ premium, but *Jequié* are firm. *West Jequié* have fluctuated between 4s. 6d. and 5s., and may go somewhat easier in the near future, as the special settlement will take place shortly. *Chersonese* and *Chersonese Options* suffered at one time from profit taking. *Molesworth Bros.* are up at 4s. 4½d. and are still a good purchase. I hear that a report on the property by a leading expert may be expected in a fortnight, when a further sharp advance is expected. A strong demand has developed in *Ivory Coast Rubber Estates* £1 shares, which have advanced to 1½ premium. The share capital is £150,000 in £1 shares. The Company was brought out in September, but has not hitherto received the attention it merits, as it owns some 45,000 acres. There are 250,000 fully grown rubber trees ready for tapping, and Mr. Gerville Réache estimates the profits for the first year at £23,000, second year £49,000, third year £70,000, and fourth year £90,000. The shares are being talked up to a very high premium.

AFTER RUBBER—OIL.

Under this heading, I last week was the first to draw attention to *Standard Oil of Mexico A* shares, then 3s. to 3s. 3d. To-day the price is 7s. to 7s. 6d., and the advance is not over. One must not overlook the fact that the total capital is only £11,000, and that the Company's extensive area is proved petroliferous land. Attention will now no doubt soon be given to the B shares, which on the basis of the quotation for A shares should stand at 26s. to 27s., whereas they can be bought at a little over 20s. Of the A shares there are 100,000 of 2s. each, and of the B shares 20,000 of 1s. each, while the profits of the Company are to be equally divided between the A and B shares. In the meantime, the market for oil shares seems really to brace up for a kind of boomlet, the action of the Admiralty in going in for oil fuel suggesting that the mercantile marine

may follow suit, but it must not be forgotten that prices are already at a high level in many instances. *Burmah Oil* shares of £1 are almost high enough at about 5½, and so are *Shell Transport* of £1 each at 77s. 6d., especially as there are two and a half millions of the latter. *Spies Petroleum* shares of 10s. each are not quite so highly priced at 26s. Now and then the West African oil group makes some fitful moves, such as *Nigeria Bitumen* and *Nigeria Investment*, in spite of the hot water drawback. The results of the oilfields of Egypt require careful watching and there is an impression that the *Anglo-Californian Oil Company* is close to oil in its borings, but in this case and in that of the *Roumanian Oil Companies* further reports should also be awaited, and the history of the *Baku* and other *Russian Oil Companies* is so far distinctly instructive but not encouraging.

KAFFIRS REACT DESPITE EXCELLENT RAND POSITION—THE CHARTERED REPORT APPARENTLY DISCOUNTED—EXPLORING LANDS AND MINERALS—HARMONY PROPRIETARY'S GREAT CHANCES—WEST AUSTRALIANS IMPROVING.

It is rather disappointing that *Kaffirs* should have lost the firm tone which has distinguished them for some time, although the only reason for the change seems to be the involved state of Home politics and a withdrawal of support by some of the big houses. The *Oceana* issues have not been well received. If the company as reported really proposes to issue £1,000,000 in connection with West Africa, it is considered excessive, and no enthusiasm is aroused by the further issue of reserve shares to *Oceana* shareholders at a price constituting a bonus. In fact, *Oceana* shares have receded to 16s. 6d. But high-class dividend-payers have kept their prices, and no doubt we shall soon see a smart recovery in the rest of the market. The flotation of the *Modderfontein State Mines* under the auspices of Messrs. Barnato and the *Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company* will shortly be undertaken. The ore contents are estimated at 12,500 tons per claim, and the company is to start with a capital of £1,400,000. The *Consolidated Langlaagte* of the same group has struck the main reef leader assaying 38.2 dwts. over 8 in. *Harmony Props.* are a strong market at 9s., and the company's chances are considered very favourable; in fact, it is reported from Johannesburg that a well-known South African group is negotiating through their London agency for a portion of the estate upon which developments have disclosed a permanent deposit of good values. The directors' report of the *Chartered Company* has fallen flat, although it is distinctly encouraging. Apparently too many options have been bought in advance, as the price is now down to 1 11-16, after 1½ had been touched, *Globes* are below the last at 7½, *Giants* at 5½, but *Tanks*, are fairly steady at 6 5-32. *Sinti Reefs* shares are firm at 9s. 3d. *Exploring Lands and Minerals* have now settled their land disputes, and are in possession of vast tracts of farming land and of valuable mineral claims over 755 square miles, adjoining the *Globe* and *Phoenix*. That means that the shares will not long remain at 9s. 9d. There is more doing in the *West Australian* market, and especially in some of the cheap shares. Thus *Gwalia Props.* have advanced to 4s. 6d. per 5s. share. This mine seems to be in luck's way just now, as in sinking No. 4 shaft they passed through about 20 ft. of gold-bearing schist of a value of 7 dwts., and in driving on the new strike very rich ore has been struck, which assayed 3 oz. 2 dwt. 14 gr. of gold, and 2 dwt. 9 gr. of silver per ton. Recent developments on the property seem to indicate that it will produce a great deal of rich ore, like its neighbour, the *Sons of Gwalia*. As the company is stated to have ample working capital, it should give a good account of itself this year. The *Great Boulder Prop.* has just declared another quarterly dividend of 9d. for the quarter, paying now regularly 3s. per annum on a 2s. share, or 150 per cent., so that at the present price of 23s. the return is 13 per cent. per annum. *Copper* stocks in Europe continue to increase, and now have reached 107,802 tons, which off-sets the reduction in the United States. The merger is hung up again, waiting for better times.

NEW ISSUES.

THE ESMERALDA CONSOLIDATED MINES (MEXICO) LTD.

With a capital of £150,000 in 147,000 preferred ordinary shares of £1 each and 60,000 deferred shares of 1s. each, this company is formed to take over and work the *Esmeralda* and three other adjoining mineral properties in the district of *Iguana*, *Nuevo Leon*, Mexico, together with modern machinery, etc. The *Esmeralda* is described as a very rich silver property with at least five outcrops indicating its great resources. Mr. J. J. Nicholl, mining engineer,

reports that the famous Esperanza fissure vein runs into the Esmeralda area, and according to the prospectus, Mr. R. B. Symington, the well-known mining engineer of San Francisco, fully confirms the favourable views of Mr. Nicholl, and believes that there is a great future for the mine. As the properties are virgin ground and reported upon so favourably by leading mining engineers, a well-defined lode assaying 30 oz. of silver per ton with 18 per cent. of lead having been struck on the Esperanza vein, the company appears to be an excellent mining proposition.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

FARROW'S BANK.—C. H. S.—A perfectly sound and very progressive institution. You will be quite safe in depositing your £500 with them.

LAW, CAR AND GENERAL.—CAT (Windsor).—Sell if you can. Molesworth rubber shares are now quoted 4s. 3d.

WEST AFRICAN LOW-PRICED MINES.—W. Y.—To my mind, Prestea Mines at 9s. 6d., New Axim at 7s. 3d., and Taquah Central at 2s. 3d. premium are preferable to those mentioned by you. What you require has been forwarded.

RUBBER SHARES.—A. B. C.—Your wish has been complied with. Amongst the rubber shares Nos. 1 to 3, I prefer No. 1, West Jequiré, and No. 2 Molesworth Brothers. No. 3 are not in the same line, and the Electric Picture Palace shares (4) are highly speculative, and difficult to sell again. The company was registered some time ago.

KIMBES RUBBER SHARES.—M. L. M. (South Wales).—There is very little market for these shares, but I send you, as requested, the name of a London stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, who will be able to inform you about the position. The Insurance shares are not bad, but they are very badly placed, and there is not much market for them; they are not popular on the Stock Exchange, and I certainly should not advise you to increase your holding.

RANDFONTEIN ESTATES.—E.A.—There is no reason for selling Randfontein Estates, which are improving now, in view of the excellent prospects of the two large subsidiaries, Randfontein Central and Randfontein South, but you might as well take your profit in South West Africa shares, which, as about 38s., leave a large profit on your cost price of 24s. You can do better elsewhere. What you require has been forwarded.

MOLESWORTH AND OTHER RUBBER SHARES.—CENTRAL.—There is no reason why you should not buy Molesworth and West Jequiré shares; and what you require has been forwarded to you.

RUBBER PROPERTIES.—PETER MOSS.—Some particulars of the Molesworth Rubber Estates were published on February 12th, and I have only to add to these that if they were already dividend payers, they would stand three times as high. The best thing is to buy these shares while they are working up to dividend point. The name of an inside stockbroker has been forwarded to you.

HOUSE BROKER.—JACK.—I never recommend outside brokers, but I forward in your envelope what you require in the alternative.

KNOTA TAMPAN RUBBER.—D. G. J. (York).—It is quite a mistake to think that Glasgow is a better market to buy rubber shares in than London. The largest market is on the London Stock Exchange, and shares in new companies are, of course, bought at a premium for special settlement.

BUILDING SOCIETY AND BANK.—DMOUSE.—(1) I advise you to have nothing further to do with any arrangement in this concern, and to sell if you can. (2) No, I strongly advise investing such money in stocks and shares, where it will yield quite as much, and be much safer than in building societies, now that all this trouble about land taxes, etc., is arising. (3) Of course, the Union and Smith's Bank is far preferable to the other bank mentioned by you. It is a high-class London bank, and much more suitable for keeping an account. What you require has been forwarded.

MADAGASCAR PROFIT-SHARING PREFS.—CULDER.—These shares (1) have now risen to 2½ to 3½ premium, and are not dear at that. On the other hand, it is probable that some of the Ordinary shares will come on the market presently, and you had better reserve your order for that. (2) Still likely to go better, but it would be preferable to await next account. I do not advise purchase of Spansky Copper shares. What you require has been forwarded.

RUBBER INVESTMENT.—M. R. (Tolnes).—There is no reason why you should not invest the money in these rubber shares, but you will have to be quick if you do not wish to pay more. The name of a stockbroker has been forwarded to you.

LOCAL TRACTION DEBENTURES.—BRITON.—I do not advise purchase of these mortgage debentures, a great objection, for instance, being that there is very little market for them, and it would be very difficult to sell them again. You can do better in other debentures bought on the London Stock Exchange through your stockbroker. I have forwarded name and address, as requested.

SMALL SPECULATION.—JUNO.—I send, as requested, name of a "House" stockbroker. It is, of course, possible to do something with the name you mention, and it is absurd to think that all profits are taken by the brokerage. You do not imagine for a moment that outside brokers are philanthropists? Your best plan is to buy some rubber shares, and to get out as soon as you can get a profit.

PREMIUM BONDS.—X. X.—I should like to explain to all the following correspondents that there is nothing in the talk of certain people that you cannot do business in Premium Bonds, but you must do so with a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, who do not lend themselves to circularising, and who do not deal in lotteries, which are absolutely illegal. They should simply write to the London firm in question. R. H.—This remark furnishes the answer to several letters: INVESTOR (Ilkeston), J. W. T. A. H. (Annfield), G. W.—Same reply. W. H. C.—This is a deliberate mis-statement. What you require has been forwarded to you. T. L.—These people are not to be depended upon, as they charge prices far above the market value. Have nothing to do with them. I send name of a respectable firm. J. C. (Sheffield).—Same reply. FRYDERUS.—You had better apply to the firm of foreign bankers, whose address I send you by post, for this information. The other concern mentioned seems to be a very small and obscure affair, and I cannot advise you to join in.

BONDS BY INSTALLMENTS.—J. E. G.—I do not know anything to the detriment of the concern in question in particular, but experience has shown that it is difficult to get your money out just when you may want it. From that point of view investment in readily realisable securities is preferable.

LAPSED PATENT.—W. R. (Bournemouth).—Certainly, if you allow the patent to lapse, you can continue making the same; but so can anybody else. No further steps need be taken as regards the patent number and name.

UNDERWRITERS.—J. W. (Coventry).—I cannot undertake to place you in communication with underwriting firms. Your best course is to advertise in the daily or financial Press, when you will no doubt get into communication with suitable people.

BANK DEPOSIT.—GWILYM (Wales).—High rates of deposit are not compatible with safety, and I cannot advise you to withdraw your money from the Building Society, in order to put it with this concern, but you could do far better by placing the money in sound Stock Exchange securities, and if you wish it, I will be pleased to mention such. ROBIN ADAIR (Newcastle).—Only for very small amounts. S. D.—I should not advise more than a small amount to be deposited. It would be far preferable to invest the money in sound securities.

SPECULATIVE INVESTMENTS.—SPIN.—You send me rather a long list of speculative investments to choose from. Amongst Rubber shares, Nos. 3 and 4 are the most attractive. The others are high enough. Amongst Mining shares, No. 12. No. 14 are likely to further advance, but they may have a setback first.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—D. A. S. (Canonbury).—Situated as you are, with small means, and without employment, I strongly advise you not to speculate with the outside brokers mentioned. You would be bound to lose money. CROMWELL.—Nos. 1 and 2 are outside concerns, and I always prefer dealing through inside channels. I therefore send, as requested, the address of a suitable firm. It is difficult to get more than 4 per cent. on absolutely safe securities, but 3½ per cent. is more the limit, and this is obtainable on the various stocks set forth to "A. E. F." ONE IN DOUBT.—You are quite right to be in doubt, but why did you not ask my advice before buying these shares, which I am afraid will prove to be bad eggs. Of course, the people recommending the shares are outsiders, and have an axe of their own to grind. L. H.—Have nothing to do with these people, who evidently run a sort of "bucket-shop," or with the shares they recommend. Otherwise, you are bound to burn your fingers. It must be patent to the average intelligence that this firm are not philanthropists. KOCK.—You ought to be aware of my views by now. I advise dealing only through members of the Stock Exchange. CONSTANT READER.—G. T.—It needs a long spoon to sup with the devil, and you were most ill-advised to deposit cash and securities of £300 with outside brokers, who have you practically at their mercy. You had better cut your loss, and have nothing more to do with them. Certainly do not send them any more money, as if the worst comes to the worst you can plead the Gaming Act. I think, however, they will not trouble you any further, but will be satisfied with what they have already bled you of. Let the occurrence be a lesson to you.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT.—DROMANTINE.—No reason to sell now, as this company has an important subsidiary on the stocks, and likely to prove attractive, and bring them additional profits.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 67, Long Acre, W.C.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—H. A. B. (Hamilton).—We cannot advise you upon the bare statements of your letter. If you will send us the correspondence you have had with the company, and the policy upon which you rest your claim, we will investigate the matter, and reply to you under cover. Meantime we return Messrs. Gardiner and Co.'s letters.

AUSTRALIAN WIDOWS' FUND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—M. B. R. (Johannesburg).—The society was started in 1871 to do life, accident and invalidity business. Its head office is in Melbourne. We should prefer a leading English office for the purpose you name.

UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—POLICY HOLDER (Leeds).—We cannot at present go into particulars. It must suffice to say that negotiations for an amalgamation, which assuming reasonable conditions can only be for the benefit of policy holders, are in a forward state.

TWO INSURANCE COMPANIES.—GREYHOUND (Waterloo).—Both companies are in the front rank, but we cannot advise you as to which would be the better for your purposes unless you tell us your particular wants. Let us have these particulars and we will answer you under cover.

CLAIM TO INSURANCE.—K. A. H. (Peckham).—If the facts are as you state them, your wife would of course be entitled to the insurance money. What has her brother to do with it?

COSMOPOLITAN INSURANCE CORPORATION.—H. F. (Manchester).—We dare say this company does not take life business. It was established as late as 1905.

STATUS OF COMPANY.—W. A. W. (Abertillery).—The company was established four years ago and is under vigorous management. It has recently absorbed another company, and is quite solvent, but we should be inclined to select a stronger company.

INTEREST IN POLICY.—BORAX (West Kensington).—(1) The company has no claim assuming the premiums to be paid and no loan upon the policy. (2) There is nothing to prevent the brother making over the policy to the daughter if he chooses to do so. (3) If the brother dies without releasing his lien his executors would take his place with regard to it. (4) As to whether the policy should be surrendered, it is impossible for us to express an opinion without information which you do not supply.

HOUSE PURCHASE CERTIFICATE.—DONALD (Cardiff).—We do not see what you can do but wait. If you will refer to the regulations upon which the certificate rests you will find that the company only undertakes to make the advances when the funds allocated to this particular purpose are available. The fact that you waited nearly five years beyond the time when you might have made the application before doing so has little bearing upon the matter, since the company can only deal with applications as they are made.

INSURABLE INTEREST.—M. B. (Hornsey).—There is no insurable interest in the case you mention, and you should make representation to the company of the circumstances which induced you to take out this policy.

THE BRITISH NATURAL PREMIUM COMPANY.—J. A. B. (Burnley).—We agree that after paying, first to the General Friendly Society, and then to the British Natural Premium Association, for over thirteen years, you should not find yourself in your present position. But there is no way out of it. It is accurately described by Messrs. Goodricke, Coteman, Hooper, Phipps and Co. in their letter to you, and the likelihood of your getting anything out of the wreckage is of the smallest.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.—H. C. (Newbury).—We cannot recommend you to discontinue payments, which, in the circumstances, would mean a considerable loss. The company may be relied upon to meet all legitimate claims, but you are not likely to get as good a result as was promised.

STABILITY OF INSURANCE COMPANY.—R. K. (Leytonstone).—It is of no use thanking us "in anticipation" for the information your letter asks for. If you read the City pages of JOHN BULL, as presumably you do, you must have seen the notice that we charge a shilling fee to every person who wants information upon financial and insurance matters. It is a very modest fee, but it seems to be too much for a good many readers who want information upon insurance matters. We do not complain, but intimate once for all that those of our readers who want information upon insurance affairs must enclose a postal order for 1s., otherwise no notice will be taken of their communications. M. J. (London).—See previous answer. CURLEW (King's Norton); A. E. C. G. (Burton-on-Trent); F. S. (Barry Dock); M. M. L. (Hackney); QUINTUS (Glasgow); M. T. (West Bromwich); A. W. G. (Hounslow); G. N. (Liverpool).—Ditto.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

BY WALTER MOORE.

XXXVII.—THE CABINET

Having already interviewed the majority of the chief members of the Cabinet individually, it occurred to me that it would be a rather brilliant idea to be present at a Cabinet meeting, and interview the Ministers in the lump.

I therefore contrived, by means which in the public interest it were better not to disclose, to secrete myself under the table in the Council Chamber, where I crouched, cramped but enthusiastic, for more than an hour, waiting for the Ministers to assemble.

Honour forbids me to make public all the weighty secrets which I heard discussed when the members at last were seated around the historic board. I will merely remark that if Keir Hardie and John Redmond had been in my place they would have heard some frank criticism of themselves that would have filled them with pained surprise.

When Asquith had spun a coin to decide whether the Veto or the Budget should be taken first, Lloyd George said he would like to know what Winston Churchill intended to do with his increased salary of £5,000. Could he spare a trifle towards the Lloyd George testimonial?

"Not me," said Winston, emphatically; "if it were not for you and your beastly Budget I could look forward to drawing the dubs for a couple of years or so; but since you've seen fit to precipitate a crisis, I don't suppose we shall be in office more than six months at the outside. It's all right for you; you've had time to feather your nest a bit."

I noticed Lloyd George's legs curling round his chair-rail in a fashion indicative of self-satisfaction. But Winston, unfortunately for me, gave a vicious kick, which painfully demonstrated the truth that the interviewer's lot is not always a happy one. Fearing discovery, I instantly transmitted the kick to the shin of Herbert Samuel, who sat adjacent.

"Steady on, Winston," protested the new Postmaster-General; "what's the idea? Kicking over the traces again already?"

"Now, gentlemen," interposed Asquith, with an assumption of severity, "don't let us have any division in the Cabinet. Remember the words of old Omar Khayyam:

'We know what little while we have to stay,

And, once departed, may return no more.'

"There's one thing I should like to say," said Herbert Gladstone; "I think it's rather rotten to make me a peer and then to set about abolishing the House of Lords."

"Don't you worry, old man," remarked Lord Crewe, soothingly; "we shall want a bally lot of abolishing. What?"

Unfortunately, at that moment a distracting nasal irritation forced me to sneeze violently.

"What did you say?" inquired Asquith, apparently addressing Lloyd George.

"Me?" returned the Chancellor, "I didn't speak."

"Oh; I thought you said something in Welsh," observed the Prime Minister, dryly.

"No, it was John Burns's new boots squeaking," responded the Chancellor.

"That's a refrigerated, mathematical inaccuracy," declared Burns, with indignation; "I haven't had a new pair of boots for months."

"Then it must have been Haldane thinking in German," suggested the Chancellor.

"You're all wrong," I said, crawling from beneath the table. "It was I."

I will not attempt to describe the scene that ensued. Mr. Haldane, as Minister for War, advanced to secure me.

"Stand back!" I cried, covering my breast with the current number of JOHN BULL. "If you advance another step I will—I will interview you."

"Go on, Haldane," urged McKenna, pushing him from behind.

"Gentlemen," I said, edging towards the door, "I have listened with interest to your confabulation. I shall not disclose anything likely to be detrimental to the public interest. But"—and here I pointed dramatically at the frieze—"I see the writing on the wall, *Mene, mene, tekel upharsin*, which, being interpreted, announces your approaching dissolution, and the advent of a Business Cabinet."

OUR SPECIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

(SPECIALLY MIS-REPORTED FOR "JOHN BULL.")

BY RICHARD MORTON.

(Mr. Morton satirises recent Police Court proceedings.)

THE EVILS OF GAMBLING—A D'TECTIVE'S STRATEGY.

If any proof were needed of the spirit of self-sacrifice nourished in the heart that beats beneath the blue tunic of the force, it was forthcoming in a case heard before Mr. Wisely, the Stipendiary at Smallborough Street. The dock was overflowing with prisoners, three of whom were charged with keeping or managing a gambling den, while twenty others were brought up for frequenting the premises.

Some of the prisoners had to stand in the well of the Court, in close proximity to the solicitors' seats, and they protested against this, as they said they did not want to be taken for lawyers. Their objection was overruled.

Inspector Gotham said the premises in question were carried on under the name of the Brotherhood Club. Having received several complaints, he obtained a warrant, and, in company with other officers, raided the place in the small hours of the morning. In one of the rooms he found six or seven men playing shove-ha'penny at a table marked for the purposes of that iniquitous pastime. He arrested everybody he could lay hands on, and his worship could see the result in front of him.

Magistrate: Yes, it looks like a big catch. We must thin them out a bit. (To defendants.) Twenty of you are only charged with frequenting. Do you admit having been there?

Twenty Defendants: Yes, or else we should not be here.

Magistrate: Very well: You are all bound over not to frequent gambling houses in future. The law does not permit you to gamble except in the City or on the race-course. Go away and be good.

The case was then proceeded with against the three principals. The Inspector stated that Carlo was the proprietor of the club, Schneider was the manager, and Sauerkraut was the waiter.

Constable Spy corroborated, and said he obtained entrance to the club and paid for drinks. He sat at the table and saw the game played.

Some interest was aroused by the evidence of Peter Simple, called on behalf of the defence. He said he was a member of the club, but had never played shove-ha'penny there before the night in question, when Mr. Spy proposed a game. He had no idea Spy was a policeman, and understood his name was Walker. Spy marked the table with chalk and provided the halfpennies which were used in the game for shoving purposes. He also lent witness money to play with. When the place was raided, Spy and he were at first locked in the same cell, and he was considerably astonished to find that gentleman subsequently giving evidence as a police constable.

Carlo elected to give evidence, and said gambling was strictly forbidden in the Club until Mr. Spy proposed a friendly game. He sent the waiter to tell them to stop, and they then adjourned to an upstairs room and Mr. Spy marked out the table in lines with a piece of chalk that he took from his own pocket. When the game was in full swing, somebody whistled from a top window, and the police rushed in. He was never more surprised in his life.

The magistrate said there were some peculiar features in the case. Among them was the conduct of Constable Spy, who seemed extremely desirous of procuring some work for that court. Whether his methods were altogether in accord with the best traditions of the London police force was a matter on which he preferred to express no opinion. In fact, the circumstances were so peculiar that he would take time to consider his decision.

At the Smallborough Street Court yesterday, Mr. Wisely pronounced his decision in the case of the gambling raid at the Brotherhood Club.

He said it was one of the most clearly-proved offences ever brought before him. The evidence was as clear as any evidence he had ever heard. The harm done by gambling clubs of this description was beyond calculation, and the men who conducted—or misconducted—they were a menace to society. Carlo, the proprietor, would be fined fifty pounds, with twenty guineas costs, and would be recommended for deportation. And that was the best recommendation he could give him.

THE MIDLAND FURNISHING CO., LTD.,

15, 17, 19, 21 and 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Our premises are six doors from the Holborn Restaurant.

1910 STOCKTAKING SALE

This is the second week of our Special Stocktaking Sale. Everything in our Showrooms **MUST** be cleared at once. Our Goods are marked down at enormous reductions, far below the ordinary selling price. We must clear our Showrooms in order to make room for our new Spring Stock, and also in order to have space to show a very large selection of new designs, which we are under contract to take up almost immediately.

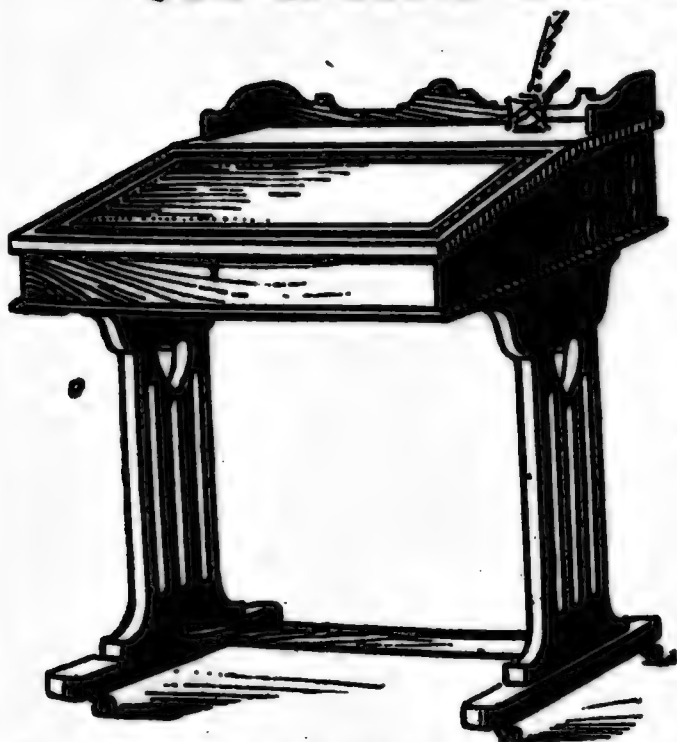
Please note that orders will be executed in strict rotation. Country purchases will be put aside immediately upon receipt of order.



Mahogany Inlaid Sheraton Style Bedroom Suite, as illustrated, comprising Dainty wardrobe, with bevelled glass door, dressing table, with a drawers below, marble top and back washstand with towel rail attached, and a cane-seat chair. Sale price
Previous Price £29 9 0.

£7 17 6

OUR SPECIAL SALE CATALOGUE IS POST FREE.



Pretty DAVENPORT, as shown, in inlaid Oak. SALE PRICE
Previous price, £12.

16s. 6d.

Only a limited number of these are available, so we beg of you to write at once for your copy in order to prevent disappointment.

Should you wish our ordinary Catalogue as well, please mention it on your postcard when writing for our Sale List.

We shall be pleased to warehouse goods for 6 months free of charge, if it is not convenient for a customer to take same up at once.

During our sale we are allowing a special discount of 10 per cent. for Cash purchases. Country Customers' fares to Town are paid on all purchases of £30 worth and upwards.

Country Orders Packed Free and Carriage Paid.

Carpets and Linoes Planned and Laid Free.

OUR GRADUAL PAYMENT SYSTEM

is absolutely fair and straightforward.

Our goods are marked in plain figures, and AFTER you have made your selection, you tell us how you would like to pay. At your wish the payments are spread over one, two or three years, and NO extra charge whatever is added.

THE MIDLAND FURNISHING CO., LTD.,
15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

AMONG THE LAWYERS.

A POOR MAN RUINED THROUGH THE ECCENTRICITIES OF THE LAW.

Robert John Brown, of 47, Howard's Road, Stratford, E., asks us whether we think he has received justice. He is clearly of the opinion that he has not, and we agree with him. Briefly stated, the facts are as follows: Brown had to borrow money on a bill of sale to buy himself a horse to get a living with. On August 26th last this horse was standing with the wheel locked, when one of the Stratford Co-operative Stores' horses attached to one of their vans bolted with the driver, smashing Brown's van, and cutting his horse badly, besides damaging goods that were in the van. Brown went to the Society and saw Mr. Banks, the Secretary, and told him what had happened, asking him to lend him a horse whilst his own was laid up, to have the van repaired, and to pay the veterinary surgeon. Mr. Banks replied that he was sorry the accident had happened and would put the matter before his committee. The next day Brown got a letter telling him that the committee would grant him £5 for the damage, but the offer was made without prejudice. Brown went to see the Secretary again and told him that £5 would "go nowhere towards the expenses incurred," as the horse would be laid up five weeks, and Brown could not hire one under £1 a week and keeping it. Then there was damage to the van and goods, and the veterinary surgeon's expenses, amounting at least to about £30. The committee, however, refused to increase their offer, and Brown put the matter in a solicitor's hands.

The case came on for hearing at Bow County Court on the 11th inst. The facts were not disputed, but the defendants pleaded that it was "an unexplainable accident and unavoidable." In other words, there was no negligence. Now by the law of England, which has many peculiarities, you may not recover damage done to you by a horse, or wagon, or carriage, belonging to somebody else unless you can prove negligence. And so it comes about that our friend Brown, having put himself in the horrible position of a man who has a bill of sale on his furniture, in order to raise the money to buy a horse wherewith to get a livelihood, finds himself injured to the tune of £30 by the runaway horse of the Stratford Co-operative Stores, and because there was no fault proved on the part of the driver of that horse he is faced by ruin. We have never been able to understand the law as it affects negligence in this connection, and we cannot see how it can be contended with any plausibility that it is other than an extremely unjust one.

THE CROSLAND VERDICT.

Too much has been made of the acquittal of Crosland. The only point which the jury decided was that a letter he wrote to the prosecutor's solicitors was not a criminal libel. There might have been many reasons for this. It may have been privileged, or there may have been no technical publication, or the jury may have thought that a letter to a solicitor damages nobody. Who can tell the mind of a jury. Meanwhile, Crosland had the satisfaction of publishing some doggerel in which one of His Majesty's Counsel is called a bully, a mouth hired to spit venom, and a lout. This can only be amusing to Mr. Marshall Hall and his many friends.

LEGAL ANSWERS.

[Only questions of general interest will be answered in this column and under no circumstances can replies be sent by post.]

ESTATE DUTY.—LAND'S END.—You can get probate of a will or letters of administration by applying at Somerset House, and you need not employ a solicitor for such a simple matter. You will have to pay estate duty.

DIVISION OF PROPERTY.—LIMESTONE.—The will applies only to such property as the father possesses at death, and if he assigned away the business it would not be covered by the will. The rest of the property will be divided as settled in the will.

PROPERTY IN TRUST.—H. B. (Blackheath).—The proper course is to get a solicitor to have an application made to the Court to presume the death of the missing woman, and you can then divide the property among the survivors.

RECOVERY OF LEGACY.—AVIS.—If you can prove that the money was left for the boy you should commence proceedings against the lady and get the amount lodged in Court to be used for his benefit.

ORDER FOR BOOKS.—LINCOLN.—You seem to have legally cancelled the order, and you cannot therefore be held liable.

PATENT LAW.—H. W. M. C.—If you do not take out a patent the provisional protection does not prevent your commencing again so long as you do not publish the invention. Under the new system at the Patent Office, a provisional protection is not published, but is kept confidentially.

INTESTACY.—J. M. (Paddington).—The widow and child would divide the property. It would be best to make a will.

PAYMENT OF RATES.—J. H. (King's Lynn).—The poor rate is payable in full immediately the demand note is delivered at the house. You had no defence, and the proceedings by the Assistant Overseer were quite in order. If you don't pay when the collector calls you should send the money to him, as he is not required to call more than once.

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.—LXXVIII.

A clergyman sends us the following. We do not think any words of ours could add to its force. Will any of our readers lend a helping hand? If they will, and will communicate with us, we shall be most happy to put them into communication with the clergyman who has brought this most deserving and distressing case to our notice.

R. B., aged 55, was an engine-driver, but had to leave through defective eyesight. The defect is very slight, and does not incapacitate him at all for ordinary work. He became an engineer with a well-known firm at Bermondsey, and kept this place for over 25 years. Then his master retired, and his troubles began. He has worked since for a gas stove company, for the L.C.C., and odd jobs of many kinds, but trade is slack, and now his age is sorely against him. He has tramped miles and miles in search of work, and is now quite despondent. He has sold everything he can spare, and has only the workhouse to look forward to. He has 6 children, of whom 5 are quite young. The eldest boy earns 2s. 6d. a week after school by taking out medicine for a doctor. He would gladly work before school in the morning and could get a job, but this is illegal. At one time he did earn 9d. a week by scraping 2 cwt. of potatoes for a baker at 6 a.m. in the morning; but this was stopped. This boy's earnings are at the present minute the sole income of the family. A younger boy earned one half-penny a day, by going out with the early milkman, but this also had to be stopped as contrary to law. The elder boy won 7s. 6d. as a prize in Sunday School lately and immediately took it to the landlord to pay a portion of their rent. They are 16 weeks in arrears, and it says much for their character that the landlord has not turned them out. The man is honest, truthful, and sober, willing to do literally anything. They are practically in a state of semi-starvation. The poor fellow has frequently said that if he was dead it would be better for his family, as the parish would then be bound to support them. If he could be set up in some small business requiring little technical knowledge, it might be his salvation. Failing this, is no work possible for an honest man over 50? Is it quite hopeless? Is there nothing but suicide or the workhouse? The genuineness of this case can be attested by a clergyman, a medical man, a lady nurse, and many employers.

With reference to the case of Chas. Hassell, dealt with in Human Document, No. LXXV., which appeared in our issue of February 5th, we are glad to be able to say that a Dover gentleman having written to us about him, we put Hassell in communication with this gentleman, with the result that he and his wife have taken service with our correspondent, who has very kindly promised to put up the child also, so that father, mother and child may be together. From what we know of the gentleman in question we are sure that Hassell and his wife have obtained just the situation they wanted, and we are happy to have been the means of helping a very worthy couple in their distress.

With reference to the sad case of George Hillman, we have to acknowledge the sum of 2s. 6d. from "A. M. W." which has been forwarded.

Commercial Text-books are necessarily technical, but some of them are so very technical that they repel the ordinary business man. Mr. L. Cuthbert Cropper, in his "Bookkeeping and Accounts" (McDonald and Evans, 3s. 6d., net.), avoids this obstacle. His book will not only be of great use as an aid to passing in examinations, it will be of material service to the business man. So far as we have been able to examine it, it is both lucid and accurate.

OIL FOR THE EMPIRE FROM THE EMPIRE.

THE COMING OIL BOOM OF 1910.

Now that the Admiralty, according to the *Daily Express*, has decided to adopt Liquid Fuel in the Navy, it becomes more apparent than ever that the attention given to Oil Production from the British Colonies will be increased. Burmah, India, Egypt, Canada, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, West Africa, Trinidad, and New Zealand, all contain supplies of Oil awaiting development, and now is the time for the British Capitalist to invest in Oil.

California, Italy, Mexico, Spain, will also contribute further supplies of Oil to the world's production.

For all information respecting new Oil Fields, and the prices of Oil Shares, apply to Geo. Macdonald, 560-1, Salisbury House, London, E.C.

PAID AWAY TO CLIENTS
(On Speculative Accounts only)

£334,730

(The Sign of the N. S. E. is the Size of the £. s. d.)

BY THE
NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE.
"Mushroom" Businesses.

LIKE THE MUSHROOM, some businesses spring up suddenly. Would-be competitors of the National Share Exchange have sprung up suddenly. They imitate us as closely as it is possible for something never intended to be the real thing; and, like the mushroom itself, they have a short life—necessarily so.

Businesses of Steady Growth.

The business firmly founded is of steady growth. Its growth to any stage is traceable by its advertising and its statements at different periods regarding its position. You have a natural confidence in a business whose progress you have followed by its advertising: you know it must have had a firm foundation: that, however modest the beginning, the present position is justified by the steady progress week by week, and year by year.

The N.S.E.

So it is with the business of the National Share Exchange. It has been of steady growth right from its inception. We have started to fill a public want, and the truth of that public demand has manifested itself more strongly every week. The signal proof of this is in the amount of money we have paid away to the public. Week by week that amount has been increased, and the public unfailingly been informed of the actual amount paid away. To have paid away One-Third of a Million Pounds in a comparatively short time is no small achievement, and we are naturally proud of it.

The Past, the Present, and the Future.

But, like a vital man, we are not concerned with the Past now, except so far as it explains our present position. And we are only concerned with the Present so far as it is an indication of what we may do for Clients in the Future. We have paid £334,730 away to Clients. We are interested, however, more particularly in what we shall pay to them in the future. And what we shall pay to Clients in the future depends more or less on our Clients and those who choose to become Clients. For the man who does not choose to become a Client we can do nothing. But we do not ask that he should become a Client at once.

Spare Us a Minute.

Give us so much of your time as is taken up by filling in the Coupon below, and enclosing it in a stamped envelope to us. That will lay us under an obligation to you in this respect. From the moment we receive it we shall be in honour bound to tell you all about our business and explain anything that you desire.

15,000 Cheques.

Among other things we shall give you particulars (a Printed List) of about 15,000 Cheques paid to Clients. Of any one or more of these you can see the Original. Had you been a Client your initials might have appeared in this. We ask, however, nothing from you but your full inquiry into our methods of business.

MEANTIME ALL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO IS TO FILL IN AND SEND THE COUPON AT FOOT. THERE IS NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT.

APPLICATION FOR PARTICULARS.

TO THE SECRETARY, NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE, Great Winchester Street, London. E.C.

Please forward me (as my name is not already on your books) full particulars of your methods and system of money-making, as well as a list of cheques, totalling £334,730 which you have paid clients acting on your advice and recommendations, together with a Search Form, so that I can verify any single cheque, or batch of cheques, that I may select.



NAME
(State Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)
ADDRESS IN FULL.....

Please Write Distinctly

DATE.....

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

President—HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, Esq., M.P.

Objects: To stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to create a robust and self-reliant Public Opinion; and to promote a Common Sense, Business Government for a Common Sense, Business People.

Readers desirous of joining the League must fill up the subjoined form and forward same to the Secretary, 67, Long Acre, London, W.C., or to their local Secretary as below.

No Officer of the League, except the Organizing or Local Secretary, is, in any circumstances, authorized to solicit or receive subscriptions.

SOME BRANCH REPORTS.

LEEDS.—The League is making good progress here, and we are still busy enrolling new members. A strict watch is being kept on the local Free Church Council, who recently passed the following resolution in regard to the increase of Sunday trading in the city: "That in view of the increase of Sunday trading, we respectfully ask the members and adherents of the Free Churches of Leeds and district to refrain from patronising on the week-days those establishments which are open on Sunday. We also urge our friends to intimate to the shopkeepers their reason for discontinuance of custom."

MANCHESTER.—The subject of the League was lately dealt with here by the Bishop of Salford (Dr. Casartelli) in a Lenten pastoral letter, in which he says:—"We have before us the prospectus of an organisation entitled The John Bull League, under the presidency of Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P., which was recently introduced into our own city, and which significantly professes to be 'a religious body without creed.' In this document we have the following clever and concrete profession:—'Instead of thinking so much about the next life, its members will make the most of this.' " We leave the President to deal with the matter.

SHEFFIELD.—The widespread popularity of the League throughout the country which is evident by its having at this early stage of its formation close on two hundred representatives in all parts of the Kingdom, has caused much comment locally, and the general public are beginning to see that the organisation is destined to become a power in the land. There is much work to be done locally, especially in connection with the Sheffield City Guild of Help, which sadly needs the JOHN BULL searchlight to bring into prominence the fact that it apparently costs the Guild 27s. to distribute £1 in relief.

TOOTING.—The membership of the League is steadily increasing, and a visit from our President to the South of London is being eagerly anticipated. Our members mean to take some steps during the forthcoming L.C.C. election to call attention to the scandalous mismanagement of the workman's trams. Through the early hour of departure of the last car, many persons have been seriously injured in the scramble to get on, and in a recent case an injured girl was awarded damages against the Council. The last workman's car leaves Tooting for the Embankment, at 7.20 a.m. and the Embankment car for Tooting at 8.0 a.m.—just the reverse of what should be. Oh, for a Business County Council!

A List of Local Secretaries may be had on application.

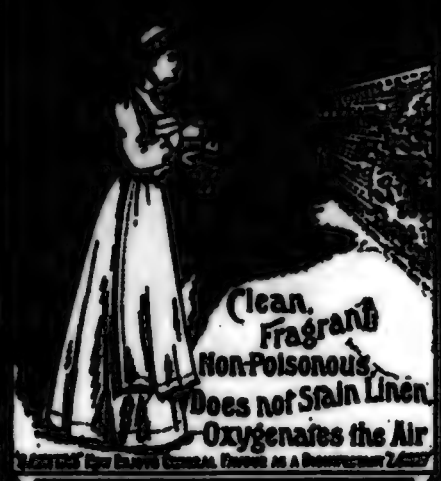
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Please enrol me as a Member of the
JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

Name

Address

.....



SANITAS
FLUID
RAYON
DISINFECTANT

Clean,
Fragrant
Non-Poisonous,
Does not Stain Linen,
Oxygenates the Air

FLUIDS
POWDER
FUMIGATOR
SOAPS

"SANITAS"
DISINFECTANTS."

FOR DISINFECTION of all sorts, including the sanitary care of kennels, stables, cellars, drains, sinks, cesspits, ashpits; hospital wards, ordinary dwelling, school and sick rooms; the treatment of refuse, and the purification of the air of banks, warehouses and public buildings, there are "Sanitas" preparations of various kinds specially adapted to all the several purposes.

The name or brand "Sanitas" is the hallmark of value for disinfectants and sanitary appliances. "Sanitas" pamphlet sent free.

THE "SANITAS" CO., LTD.,
LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

LOTUS for MEN—18/6.



732 Black Glace Calf.
764 Tan Willow Calf.
767 Black Box Calf.



Write LOTUS, STAFFORD, for style booklet and local agent's address.

Once fitted with Lotus, always fitted.

Oatine

When the skin is irritated after shaving, use OATINE. It instantly relieves tenderness, and soreness of the skin.

A Free Sample

of Oatine Cream will be sent on application, or for 3d. in stamps a box containing eight of the Oatine preparations and book on Face Massage.

THE OATINE CO., 270a, DENHAM STREET, LONDON, E.L.



ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of Potter's Asthma Cure, in 4/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE 32 PAGE and post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. (Mention this Magazine)

Instant Relief.

The "JOHN BULL" Readers' Home Club.

Every lady and gentleman reader of "John Bull" is asked to join in a wonderful scheme for making home brighter and more useful socially and professionally.

WELL-KNOWN LONDON HOUSE INAUGURATES CLEVER IDEA WITH A REMARKABLE PRESENT TO ALL.

A little careful consideration will convince every reader of JOHN BULL that the following scheme outlined is perhaps the happiest and most useful idea from a domestic point of view that has ever been launched before the public.

The idea is extremely simple, and may be simply stated as a suggestion for the raising of the social status of home life and an improving of the business value of the home.

Many men fail utterly to realise how important "home" really is. It is always interesting to hear romantic people talk, but the man who wishes to advance knows that an important factor in his life is the solid backing of a well-established home.

How many important opportunities have been lost, how many favourable, valuable transactions have fallen through simply because one of the parties concerned has been ashamed to take the other to his home.

The Home Club will obviate all this, for every member will undertake to make his home brighter, better and more personally useful.

Those who wish to join have no money to pay; all they are asked to do is to register a mental vow to the effect that they will improve their homes and to fill in the coupon below.

This brilliant idea of importance to young married people, bachelors—in fact, every class of society—was born in the brains of the directors of London's most important furnishing house. Realising its immense value, instructions were immediately given to place JOHN BULL readers in the position of receiving the idea first. Further than this, arrangements have been made to supply every reader of JOHN BULL with a large and most interesting book dealing with home and home improvement. Copies of this beautifully illustrated book will be sent free of charge to those applying either by letter or on the coupon below.

It is Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander who are responsible for this magnificent offer, which harmonises exactly with their usual method of business. Wolfe and Hollander having obtained the premier position in the furnishing world, spare no expense whatever to keep that position, and to stand right ahead of those who are endeavouring to advance.

Wolfe and Hollander know that a well-furnished home is of vital importance to the man who wishes to get on, and to the woman who wishes to stand well in her particular social sphere. That is why they say, make a mental vow to join the Home Club, and send at once for the wonderful book they offer free.

But, says one, much as I should like to refurnish, or add to, my home, the question of expense is overwhelming.

Surely not. One has only to visit Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander's magnificent showrooms at 252 to 256, Tottenham Court Road to realise that useful, artistic, rich, comfortable furniture may be obtained at quite moderate prices. Wolfe and Hollander undertake to furnish throughout the smallest villa, to make of the various rooms truly palaces of delight, at a cost that even a clerk could afford. Again, they are prepared to re-furnish entirely a hotel or mansion. The host of clients of this great firm are found in every rank of society, and many persons have been pleased to avail themselves of the firm's special system of payment.

Those receiving cheques monthly or quarterly often find it more convenient to pay a series of small sums rather than one large one. Therefore, Wolfe and Hollander arrange that those so desirous may visit their colossal premises, examine the finest stock of furniture, carpets, etc., in London and having chosen the desired articles may, by simply adding five per cent. to cash prices, extend payment over a period of one, two or three years.

To explain this clearly, should you desire to purchase £100 worth of furniture, the actual cost by the deferred system of payment is only £105. In the same way £50 costs but £52 10s., and £20 but £21.

Whether you purchase for cash or adopt the sensible deferred system introduced by Wolfe and Hollander—the only really equitable one—you are equally welcomed at their showrooms. Even if you call for a visit of inspection, irrespective of the question of purchase, a trained assistant will be pleased to show you round.

There are many, of course, who will be unable to visit the Tottenham Court Road Showrooms immediately, and to them we say—write at once for a copy of the fully illustrated book, which will be posted to you free. There is no charge whatsoever.

Whatever rank or station in life you may hold, no matter whether you are businessman, doctor, journalist, clerk, engineer, no matter who you are, you will find something of interest in Wolfe and Hollander's remarkable book.

New ideas in furniture, new ideas in the arrangement of rooms, methods of saving money, methods of brightening the home, these are the subjects dealt with, and no man or woman can read the pages through without feeling convinced that Wolfe and Hollander have prepared a book of surpassing interest and practical value.

As they stand ahead of all others for the value, exquisite design and moderate price of their furniture, so their furniture book eclipses all other productions. All that you are asked to do in order to secure a presentation copy is to send your name and address to Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, 252 to 256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C., either in a letter or in the coupon below. The telegraphic address of the firm is "Wolffhol, London." Telephones, 1850 Gerrard, 14299 Central.

Coupon for Presentation Copy of New Illustrated Book.

To Messrs. WOLFE & HOLLANDER,
252-256, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, W.C.

Dear Sirs,

Please forward me as per your offer one copy of your furniture book. This book is to be given me free and you are to pay postage.

Name

Address

Date.....

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By MRS. BULL.

SHADED VIOLETS.

I never can find out why, but violet is almost universally men's favourite colour for our wear. They will even say of an otherwise ordinary woman, "She is stunning! See, she is wearing mauve." But an explanation can never be screwed out of them. I wish one of the polite men who sometimes write to me and say they read my column would write and really tell me why. But, anyhow, it is very good news to hear that we are to have a real violet season this spring, and that means that a perfect crowd of new tints and variations are being added even to those lovely wood violet shades we already possessed over from last spring and early summer. The coquette will be hard-up, indeed, if she cannot find one of these to suit her. Culled from every possible source of violet—from the woodland flower to a Welsh mountain-top in a mist; from the sea before sunrise to the end of a pheasant's wing; through every variety of phlox, clematis, pansy, stock; to the bloom on a Kentish plum orchard, and the water-tints of a Japanese print, to the dim velvet bed-hangings in King James the Second's room at Hatfield, we have the colour. And hard indeed to suit is the woman who will not be able to find one of these shades becoming. Apropos, I should like to mention one warning: never be persuaded to wear only one shade of violet at a time. Always, if at all possible, work in two or more. It is curiously true that this very softest of all colours is oddly hard if worn in only one shade—it must graduate its lights to be becoming. That is why it is more flattering in velvets and silks or faced cloths, because it then takes on surface shadings of its own. But the wise wearer of it will always cluster groups of tints in one hat of virginian stock or pansy; or she will have some slightly iridescent embroidery of the colour, which of its own glittering nature introduces others.

FLOWERS AND NERVES.

We all know that there is one wonderful, gifted, Ceres-like type of woman at whose touch all flowers seem to grow, even in a town house, and whose dainty little pots and bowls and glasses are to-day alive with springing hyacinth and jonquil. This person is usually one of the calmest and most human of beings, quite without any sort of pose, and utterly the opposite of all that is "nervy" and distracting and modern. To some extent she is often almost inarticulate, and very placid. She finds her expression in the growth of flowers, not in saying and doing upsetting and "complex" things. In fact, I doubt if an Ibsen heroine could grow house flowers. Evidently they don't like nerves at all. But what I want to suggest is that we should invert the doctrine and learn to grow home flowers as our cure for our nerves. It is worth trying, and now is the moment to begin. Of course, our poetic home-goddess planted her bulbs weeks ago, and is already reaping the reward. But there is yet time to invest in a few of those which the florists call "started"; this is planted at their proper time, and now just beginning to spring up green and fresh out of the soil or water. Far the cheapest way of procuring these is to seek out a florist's by a cemetery gates (it sounds more depressing than it is!), for these make a special line of "started" bulbs for the visitors to graves who come too long a distance to bring their flowers, and sell them for a few pence. Then see if the care and nursing up to blossom of these beautiful plants does not do away with a few wrinkles and tempers. Unless I am much mistaken, it would make us all positively prettier to turn gardeners!

THE RINKING CROAK.

The latest cry of the amateur beauty-theorizers is to say that rinking gives you thick ankles. When I heard this dictum solemnly pronounced the other day by a man who, at all events, is a judge of beauty, and two badly-bitten rinking girls seriously reconsidering the idea of going on with the pastime, I was not surprised. Is there any physical exercise which the idler and the faddist have not found out spoils something? If you swim, the theorist rises up to tell you that this exercise makes people fat, and gives them rheumatism. If you play hockey you are warned that your gait and waist will both be rapidly ruined. If you are a tennis enthusiast your skin is said to suffer beyond all redemption, also your hands. When we cycled they warned us about developed hips; now that we motor they warn us about "motor nerves" and eyesight.

What I should like to ask some of these people is—What does a steady system of doing nothing result in? It seems, certainly, to thicken the head, and on the whole that is more serious than the ankles.



Shem-el-Nessim

SCENT OF ARABY

This fascinating Eastern Perfume carries with it the blended fragrance of the rarest flowers of the Orient. Its charm is very subtle and out-of-the-ordinary, and it imparts to the user an atmosphere of delicate distinction.

An Inspiration in Perfume.

"Shem-el-Nessim" is prepared in all forms for preserving that harmony in the toilet which denotes the woman of taste.

Perfume, 2/6, 4/6, and 8/6; Toilet Water, 3/-; Hair Lotion 3/3; Brillantine, 1/6; Dentifrice, 1/-; Face Powder, 1/-; Sachet, 6d.; Soap, 1/- per tablet; or Cachaou, 3d. per box.

The above may be procured from all Chemists and Perfumers.

SAMPLES

of Perfume and Soap in dainty box, with presentation Copy of Grossmith's Toilet Guide, sent post free on receipt of 3d. in p.d. stamps.

Mention Dept. S 42.

J. GROSSMITH & SON,

DISTILLERS OF PERFUMES, NEWGATE ST. LONDON.

ENTIRELY BRITISH.



The New £2 10s. "Express" English Lover

A fine example of English Watchmaking, containing all the latest perfections. Handsomely finished three-quarter plate movement, jewelled in all important actions. Chronometer Balance constructed upon the newest compensating principle and controlled by Breguet hairspring. An absolutely accurate timekeeper.

THE CASES are full size, beautifully modelled in Hallmarked Sterling Silver, engine-turned; or 14 carat Rolled Gold, finished plain. State which you prefer.

WE DELIVER this Standard Timekeeper for

2/6

with order, 2/6 on delivery, and 9 monthly payments of 2/- after delivery if satisfactory. Catalogue Free of Ladies' and Gent's Watches, lovely Jewellery, Engagement Rings, Bric-a-brac, Alberts, Brooches, Clocks, and Silver and Plated Goods for Presents in great variety. On Easy Terms or Cash Discount.

Standard British Timekeeper

J. GRAVES Ltd.,

SHEFFIELD

DOGS DELIGHT IN SPRATT'S "RODNIM" HOUND MEAL

As a change with SPRATT'S Dog Cakes. NO SUGAR. NO CHEMICALS. SPRATT'S PATENT LIMITED, 24 & 25, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.

A Prospectus has been issued which states the following amongst other matters:—

The Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The Subscription List will open on Tuesday, the 22nd day of February, 1910, and close on Thursday, the 24th day of February, 1910.

THE ESMERALDA CONSOLIDATED MINES

(MEXICO), LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies' (Consolidation) Act, 1908.

CAPITAL - - - £150,000,

In 147,000 Preferred Ordinary Shares of £1 each and 60,000 Deferred Shares of 1s each.

145,125 Preferred Ordinary Shares are now offered for Public Subscription, payable
2s. 6d. on Application. 7s. 6d. on Allotment. 2s. 6d. Thirty days after Allotment

And the Balance in calls of not more than 2/6 each at not less than thirty days after notice.

The Preferred Ordinary Shares will be entitled, out of the net profits available for payment of dividend, to a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum.

After payment of the Preferred Ordinary Dividend the Holders will have the additional right to two-thirds of the surplus of such net profits, the remaining third of such surplus profits being allocated to the Holders of the Deferred Shares.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. HENRY E. DERING, Bart., J.P., D.L., Sheerland House, Ashford, Kent (Chairman).
 Mr. HENRY SETON-KARR, C.M.G., 47, Chester Square, London, S.W. (Vice-Chairman).
 ARTHUR HASSAM, Esq., F.G.S., M.I.M.E., Nelson Place, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.
 Captain W. J. M. HILL, Westwood House, West Bergholt, Essex.
 WILLIAM O'MALLEY, Esq., M.P., 146, Warwick Street, London, S.W.

CONSULTING ENGINEER.

FREDERIC W. NORTH, Esq., F.G.S., M.I.M.E., 142, Portdown Road, London, W.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. FOX, AWBERRY AND CO., Chartered Accountants, 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. WYNNE-BAXTER AND KEEBLE, 9, Laurence Pountney Hill, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

NORMAN PAINE, NOAKES AND CO., 2 and 3, Old Broad Street, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

BANKERS.

THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, Limited, Threadneedle Street, E.C., and Branches.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

GEO. W. BROCKELSBY, Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed to take over and work the Esmeralda and three other adjoining mineral properties, situated in the district of Iguala, in the State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, together with modern machinery, consisting of a modern concentrating plant, ore cars, rails, mining implements, etc., which, it is anticipated, will enable returns to be made within six months from date of allotment.

The Esmeralda mineral property, from which the Company derives its name, comprises about 50 acres of virgin ground, rich in silver ores. There are at least five mineral outcrops in it indicating great resources. Mr. J. J. Nicholl, M.I.M.E., F.G.S., a mining engineer of "eight years' experience in Mexico, and intimately familiar with the particular geological formations of that country, and especially with the district of Iguala, and who is prepared to act as Mine Manager if so appointed by the Directors, reports that the famous Esperanza fissure vein runs into the Esmeralda area, which is situated only about a mile distant from the old Voladora Mine, one of the most celebrated mines in Mexico. He explains that this lode gained a great reputation in consequence of that section which extends east into the famous old Guadalupe property, having produced in silver in twelve months a value equivalent to £200,000. Further, he states that it is a feature of the Esmeralda formation that it resembles that of the Voladora Mine, which has produced silver to the value of twenty million pounds sterling. Mr. Nicholl, moreover, states that in his opinion the Esperanza fissure vein, which has been so productive in the past, will be as prolific and rich in the Esmeralda ground in the future; and that the conformation of this ground permits of the ore being won by drives at a moderate cost, only requiring adequate capital to win returns equal to those of the greatest mines in Mexico.

Besides the Esmeralda, the following mines and properties are taken over:—

The Esperanza, which covers an area of 57 acres, and contains within its boundaries the Occina Mine, worked by adit levels, winzes, and cross-cuts, which have been already opened up, and by this means it is expected that, when adequate plant has been provided, 100 tons of ore a day can be mined from the ore-bodies, whose reserves are estimated to contain approximately one million tons of ore, yielding an average of about 30 ounces of silver per ton and 18 per cent. of lead.

Within the boundaries of the Esperanza is the fissure vein known as the Esperanza Lode, which, as above stated, runs into the Esmeralda ground. A prospecting shaft has been sunk in this vein, and evidence is thus afforded that it yields ore whose average contents are 30 ounces of silver to the ton and 18 per cent. of lead.

Within the Esmeralda area is also the celebrated old Guadalupe Mine. This mine is opened up by adit levels and cross-cuts, and by the means thus afforded at least 100 tons of silver-ore should be mined and trammed out of the adit levels daily, with adequate plant in full operation.

Ampliacion de Esperanza.—This property, with an area of 25 acres, adjoins the Esperanza on the north, containing several mineral outcrops, resembling those on the Esperanza property. This acquisition is due to the fact that it proves a valuable adjunct to the Esperanza, and, while affording suitable mill sites on which the Concentrating plants to treat the Esperanza ores can be erected, it will form a portion of a compact block represented by the four properties taken over.

The Anexion a la Esperanza.—This property, which contains an area of 15 acres, is contiguous to the Esperanza property on the south, which in course of time may prove very valuable, as it is practically certain that the Esperanza ore-bodies extend into this ground.

In addition to the above properties, Mr. Nicholl calculates that the dumps taken over represent no less than Three Hundred and Thirty Thousand Tons of ore.

These great accumulations are the result of workings begun at a date so far back as 1700, and it may be reckoned that the larger part of the ore extracted was left on the dump-heaps and not treated, as only picked ore of great value was utilised, because of the heavy cost of transport and the ore having to be carried on the backs of mules for hundreds of miles for treatment. Now there is a Railway Station at Lampazos, on the Mexican National Railway, about 25 miles distant, and connected by a good road. These dumps are of large bulk, representing an ultimate net value of Six Hundred Thousand Pounds and have been carefully examined, numerous average samples having been taken by Mr. Nicholl and assayed by him and other assayers in order that a correct estimate of the value of the dump-heaps might be arrived at.

Mr. Nicholl's report has been submitted to Mr. R. B. Symington, M.E., C.E., of San Francisco, a Mining Engineer of repute on the Pacific Coast, and by two cables dated the 16th and 17th February, 1910, he states that he generally confirms Mr. Nicholl's report, and that he believes there is a great future for the property.

The minimum subscription on which the Company will go to allotment is £25,000, the whole of which has been underwritten.

The Vendors to the Company, who are also the promoters, are the Industrial Selections, Limited, of Finsbury Court, E.C., and by the Contract for sale (being Contract B set out hereunder) the purchase price will be £100,000, payable as to £7,250 in cash, as to £89,750 in fully-paid £1 Preferred Ordinary Shares, or in cash, at the option of the Company, and as to £23,000 in fully-paid 1s. Deferred Ordinary Shares.

The preliminary expenses, including registration fees, printing and advertising this Prospectus, and legal and other expenses down to the first general allotment of shares (except brokerage and underwriting), are estimated at £2,250. The Vendor Company has agreed to pay such preliminary expenses in consideration of the payment to it by the Company of £2,250. If such expenses exceed the estimate, the Vendor Company is liable to pay the excess, and if such expenses do not amount to such estimate the Vendor Company is entitled to the balance.

A copy of the Memorandum of Association is printed on the back of this Prospectus, of which it forms part.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association, the above-mentioned agreements and the cables from Mr. Symington, and the report of Mr. Nicholl (copy of which is enclosed with the Prospectus, and upon the faith of which the statements made in this Prospectus are based), can be seen at the Offices of the Company at any time during business hours while the Subscription List remains open.

A brokerage of 3d. per Share will be paid by the Company in respect of all allotments upon application other than underwriting applications identified as coming through Brokers and Agents approved by the Directors.

Application for Shares should be made on the forms accompanying this Prospectus, and sent to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance of the amount payable on application. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment, and any balance remaining will be returned. Failure to pay any instalments when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Prospectus and Forms of Application for Shares can be obtained from the Company's Bankers and Brokers, and the Offices of the Company.

Application will be made to the Committee of the Stock Exchange for a settlement in the Shares of the Company.

Dated 19th February, 1910.

THE HURLY BURLY.

BY THEODORE DAHLE.

THE ETERNAL QUERY: WHY WERE WE BORN.

One of the many esteemed friends who do me the honour to sit at my feet that they may learn somewhat of the great purposes of this life takes me to task in regard to certain views which, in a moment of unpardonable frivolity, I recently expressed on the subject of existence. A certain American Senator had stated that the man or woman who fails to marry, fails in the principal reason for existence. On this I hazarded the remark that, "down to this moment," I had utterly failed to understand what the principal reason for existence is; "and," I added, "when I have gone more deeply into the subject I expect I shall find there never was a reason for our existence, and that the only object for which we struggled into it is to struggle out of it." "Surely you don't mean to say life is without purpose?" demands my correspondent. Humbly I take that as the just rebuke to my unseemly levity.

My friend must not mix the terms, however, for mixing terms is worse even than mixing drinks. Let me tell him at once that there is a difference between the reason for our existence and the purpose for which we use our lives. For instance, a man may be in grave doubt as to the reason why he was born, but have no doubt whatever that the purpose for which he lives is to provide the landlord with rent, His Majesty's Treasury with taxes, and the Borough Council with rates. My own heart would be bowed down if rent and rates and taxes formed no part of the purpose for which I lived. I should have nothing to pay except for fun and food. Legislation would be at a standstill, for both the Liberals and the Tories would be out of work. Even the House of Lords would not have to reject any more Budgets.

The reason for existence is another matter, however. The airy supposition of the American Senator is that it is to stimulate the manufacture and distribution of bassinets and cradles. That may be offered as an excuse or apology for other people's existence, but certainly it cannot be a reason for one's own. Indeed, the best answer which can be made to the query why one is born is that one really cannot help it. Nobody ever asks his parents for the loan of life. He has no option but to accept it. Though it is not a boon in all cases, to most of us life is so enjoyable that we seldom think of asking ourselves why we live. When we do ask, the answer which comes back to us, if answer comes at all, is the echo of our own voice.

"Life?" asked Claude Bernard in an epigram, "What is life? Life is death." One needs to be greatly daring to face a thought like that. Even to face it is to get no answer to your riddle. For as to live is to die, why live? To put death into a defective world in order to destroy life in it—what the reason? What, in the end, the use? I cannot answer. But this I know and you know: life at its worst as well as at its best is a condition we easily get used to. On the whole it will be considered that with practice it is not very difficult to make life between its beginning and its close well worth the while to live. The cynics may tell you that from any point of view the world is rather an over-rated place of entertainment. Probably we all quarrel with the world and all that therein is at times. But whether we believe the world was made in six days or was formed like all other worlds by the condensation of rotating masses of nebula, whether we believe that six thousand years ago, as Haller and even Leibnitz thought, the germs of hundreds of thousands of millions of men and women were specially created and miraculously packed into the ovaries of Mother Eve, or that we have been physically and mentally evolved by the "eternal process moving on" through protoplasmic cells and the monkey house—our consciousness tells us that we are down here or up here to make free choice of the use to which we put our lives. Whatever the reason for our existence, with life comes freedom—I do not say to all but to most—to do with it pretty much as we will. I don't know anything that is easier to make a mess of than this life of ours—sometimes I think I have proved rather a good hand at that part of the business myself. On the contrary, it is possible to make a sound, serviceable, decent thing of it, something worth looking at through and through and round and round. And this latter done or in the doing, the theology of the *Raison d'Etre* may safely be left to its own ultimate proof or refutation.

A London Doctor



Debility, Neuralgia, Neurasthenia—

Before everything, with kings, statesmen, and people, it is the *doctor's word that counts*, that means something, means in this case that all the superior learning, experience and skill of Dr. Beattie impel him to prescribe Phosferine as the *paramount specific for nervous disorders*. Merely to know this is a real gain to any reader, for it is not always possible or convenient to consult a doctor, but to have the *pledged word* of such medical men as Drs. Beattie, Butler, Griffiths, Gordon Stables, &c., to have their *assurance* of the revitalising efficacy of Phosferine is a boon within everyone's reach. So much depends on *what the doctor thinks* that it is a distinct service to repeat Dr. Beattie's guarantee, viz., "I have every confidence in recommending Phosferine both to the medical profession and the laity as a general tonic and alterative."

Quite Stopped.

Wm. P. Beattie, M.B., Ch.B., 21, Bedford Square, London, W.C., writes:—"I had heard so much about Phosferine that I determined to test its properties when I myself was suffering from neurasthenia, as a result of overwork. I commenced taking it daily, and in a week's time, my nerves were in a very much better state, and my ability for work had returned. Within a month I felt physically and mentally strong for my daily work. Having experienced such great relief myself, I prescribe Phosferine to my patients, and the result is always satisfactory."

As a tonic in convalescence from low forms of fever, I have found its action profoundly effective. In headache and neuralgia it is an invaluable remedy, relieving the pain rapidly, even in cases where pharmacopœial drugs have failed. I found Phosferine extremely useful in the later stages of enteric fever and in debility, resulting from dysentery and other tropical diseases, its tonic effect being very manifest. I have every confidence in recommending Phosferine both to the medical profession and the laity as a general tonic and alterative, and I shall certainly continue to use it in private practice, as it has proved such an infallible remedy in my hands."—Nov. 26th, 1909.

PHOSFERINE

THE GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

Neuralgia	Premature Decay	Anæmia
Rheumatism	Maternity Weakness	Malaria
Brain-lag	Nervous Headaches	Sleeplessness
Indigestion	Sciatica	Nervousness

and all disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

THE REMEDY OF KINGS.

Phosferine has been supplied by Royal Commands

To the Royal Family
H.M. the Empress of Russia
H.M. the Queen of Roumania
H.M. the King of Greece
H.M. The King of Spain
The Imperial Family of China
And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World.

Bottles, 1/1½, 2/9, and 4/6. Sold by all Chemists, Stores, &c.
The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size

DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. CLEMENT SCOTT.

"TANTALIZING TOMMY."

How magnificently characterless it all is! With what a wealth of reduced individualism Miss Marie Lohr in her Parisian costumes frivols with the enchanting role of "Tantalizing Tommy," acted so bewitchingly in the gay city by Marthe Régnier under the title of "La Petite Chocolatière." All that lightness of touch, the feathery spirit of spontaneous mischief, and bubbling sense of fun have been wiped clean off Miss Lohr's slate, and although Tommy *looks* attractive enough to tempt the dullest dog, there is no magnetism about her performance and it lacks that inexpressible charm and vivacity with which Marthe Régnier always delights her audiences.

A critic once compared the difference in French farce acting and English farce acting to the sparkle of champagne and the heaviness of stout, and if ever the truth of his words were realised, they are in the case of "La Petite Chocolatière" and "Tantalizing Tommy."

Not a single one of the artists at the Playhouse, in fact, appears to have taken into consideration the different types they are supposed to represent. Mr. Cyril Maude, as a clerk in the Colonial Office, gives us a very mild exorcism of his "Toddles." Mr. Kenneth Douglas creates little or no impression as the portrait-painter, and in place of real fun to repay well spent money we are treated to four acts of colourless stuff which neither makes for laughter, excitement, or emotion of any description, and you simply arrive at the dead level, monotonous state of mind that an unfinished, undetermined scheme invariably leaves with you.

Mr. Michael Morton may have adapted Paul Gavault's "La Petite Chocolatière" with every good intention, but his object has apparently been frustrated by the selection of his caste, which unfortunately fails to make the play in English amusing or even effective. However, I'm glad to read that "Tantalizing Tommy" is going very strong at the Playhouse, and that the advance booking is enormous.

THE CLIMAX.

"It ain't the things he says—it's the funny way he says 'em," was the way a popular music-hall favourite wound up his song a while ago, but, my word, what funny things have been written within the last few days about matters theatrical—that is to say, since the landing in London town of "King Frohman the Great." For instance, to the disappointment of all the passengers, "The Climax" was never attained on board the big steamship which carried Charles Frohman to these unsettled shores, and what do you think was the unperformed explanation given vide the *Daily Telegraph*? Why, that the weather was so intensely disagreeable, and the sea so extremely unsociable that Mr. Frohman's leading lady, Miss Marie Doro, immediately succumbed to its unpleasant influence and threw up her part. Tut-tut, we think thou hast been wit-training, thou playful pusslette!

AT THE HIPPODROME.

Cannot Lewis Waller find something less harrowing than Henry Hamilton's "Fortune's Fool" wherewith to please the people who go to see him at the beautiful Cranbourn Street theatre of varieties? The girls don't want to see their usually heroic Waller die—they love him to be very much alive and kicking. They want to hear him shout out "Victory!" not to listen to a tale of all his life-long failures, and then take a nasty pill containing poison, and so finish himself off. It's a beastly cowardly way out of things at best, to commit suicide, and surely some of Lewis Waller's stirring recitations, with or without music, would be preferable to the very painful story of "Fortune's Fool."

IRENE VANBRUGH AND GERALD DU MAURIER.

Congratulations, and may good luck follow the footsteps of Irene Vanbrugh and Gerald du Maurier who are to be elevated to the proud positions of actress and actor managers by America's theatrical "Chief." By the way, though, Mr. Frohman is reported to have said that as Mr. du Maurier will shortly have played the characters of three thieves, he is deserving of some recognition. What does he mean? That in order to qualify for the part of actor-managership one must first of all learn to be a successful burglar?

MY FAVOURITE NOVEL.

ALLEGED ANSWERS OF SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD: "Charlie to the Rescue." By R. M. Ballantyne.

MR. JOHN BURNS: "Least Said, Soonest Mended." By Agnes Giberne.

MR. BALFOUR: "Follow My Leader." By Talbot Baines Reed.

ALL SOCIALISTS: "Less Black than We're Painted." By James Payn.

Eckford's
Sweet Peas

**The Finest Blooms
in the World.**

For those who have place in a beautiful garden the Sweet Pea needs no introduction, but to those who would avoid disappointment I give a word of advice. Be careful in the selection of seeds. Last year's crop was not over plentiful and there is sure to be placed upon the market seeds that are absolutely valueless. My reputation for supplying prize-producing Sweet Pea seeds is the safest guarantee you have. If I cannot supply you with the best you can have none.

ECKFORD'S are the largest retailers of Sweet Peas in the world, and do not supply the trade. Genuine Eckford seeds can only be obtained direct from Wem.

Special Offers for 1910.

Villa (B) Collection.

24 Splendid varieties, suitable for exhibition, 50 seeds of each, 5/6, post free for cash.

Villa (F) Collection.

21 Splendid varieties, suitable for exhibition, 25 seeds of each, 3/6, post free for cash.

Villa (G) Collection.

12 Splendid varieties, suitable for exhibition, 50 seeds of each, 2/6, post free for cash.

Villa (H) Collection.

12 Extra varieties, suitable for exhibition, 25 seeds of each, 1/6, post free for cash.

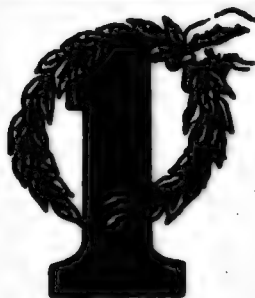
A specially written Booklet on Sweet Pea Growing given with every order. Send to WEM to ensure satisfaction.

"I should like to say how exceedingly satisfied I was with the packet you supplied me with last year, for despite that the soil was execrable and directly opposed to the rearing of good flowers, and my inability to give them much attention, they flowered magnificently and it was a very fine sample of good breed triumphing against adverse circumstances."—R. T. S., LONDON.

FREE Send a post-card to-day for large Illustrated and Coloured Catalogue. It gives full particulars of all novelties in Sweet Peas for 1910, and contains full list of all Flower and Vegetable Seeds.

HENRY ECKFORD, F.R.H.S.
(Dept. 135), Wem, Shropshire.

Eckford's
Sweet Peas

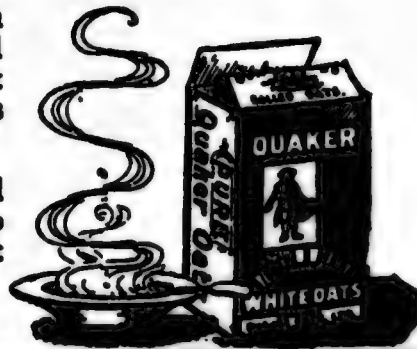


Only one
food more
nourishing
than Oatmeal — and
that is—Quaker Oats.

Quaker Oats is not like other Oats. It is free from hulls and black specks; is made from the final selection of the choicest white Oats. Quaker Oats does not overheat the blood, because roasted and milled into thin flakes by the exclusive Quaker process.

Growing children
need the sound
nourishment that
Quaker Oats
alone supplies.

Cook as directed
on packet. 40
platefuls cost
sixpence!



25 JB

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—

How does Mr. Asquith like a Pat on his back?
Is there anything "out of the way" about Winston Churchill's appointment?
Would a Silent Voters' Party make itself heard?
Is "Peace at any price" the Premier's motto?
Is the "Dreadnought hoax" the first time the Admiralty has been taken in?
Is it true that "Justice" at the Duke of York's is not a farce?
Don't our baronets know how to take care of themselves?
Does the Kaiser really want his officers to learn to fly?
Will the new opera Elektra-fy London?
Has the Parisian league to suppress swearing been formed because dams have been so frequent there?
Will oil become the standard fuel for the Navy?

The Metropolitan Asylums Board propose to save money by not insuring their premises against fire. There is madness in their method.

A white pheasant has been shot at Bishops Stortford. Killed for a lark, we presume?

"The Radical Whine," says the *Express*. We fear the grapes are sour.

The man who pleaded drunkenness as an excuse for stealing, evidently took too much.

"Music has too long been a plaything," says Professor David Evans. But the players find it hard work.

Knox, the Surrey bowler, has gone on the stage. He will still favour a long run.

"The bridge engineer is the most ambitious of mortals," says Mr. F. A. Talbot. Naturally, he believes he can get over anything.

It is now stated that carrion crows, instead of acting as useful scavengers, disseminate disease. Our Jim is getting nervous.

According to the Bishop of London, the Church of England is "fifty years too late." Other people have also found it slow.

Lady Bancroft's illness is attributed to a sour milk treatment. Perhaps she tried the wrong whey?

"Marriage is an art," says Mme. Bernhardt. Certainly men are drawn into it.

A Belgrade detective dressed himself as a policeman to avoid recognition. Over here we reverse the process.

The statement that "The modern bagpipe differs very little from its ancient Egyptian counterpart," suggests the existence of an eleventh Plague.

"I was educated in a cellar," said Judge Parry recently. A sort of Foundation School, we presume?

Mr. Ure, M.P., says there is no topic so uncongenial to him as himself. He should know best.

Fulham, according to the Bishop of London, was once a village of birds. Even now, some of the inhabitants are distinctly dickey.

A constable at Shoreditch said a minute had passed after a pause of 16 seconds. No wonder so many motorists get fined.

A man was recently arrested whilst playing bridge. He had to cut.

Motorists in a ditch, we read. They must have been too near the edge.

Headline: £750 for a bedstead. A good investment for a sleeping partner.

We hear of a wonderful bird architect. Nothing new. A Wren built St. Paul's.

There is no truth in the rumour that Mr. Burns was seen floating about Paris on a local government board.

Do the Unionists consider Wick a rush-light?

Did Mr. Asquith go to Cannes to consider the "can'ts"?

The *Mail* heads an article on the political situation with "The Plan." Will there be any elevations?

"Chantecler" was postponed on account of the floods, and yet it was foul weather.

We presume the Unionist candidate doesn't like Waltham's low.

The Seine proves that when a river wants a rise you cannot give it the push.

The article in the *Clarion* proves that Victor Grayson isn't bottled.

A writer asks: "What is the Party Game?" Wild goose.

A Danish newspaper commends Mr. Blatchford. Many here dis-dain him.

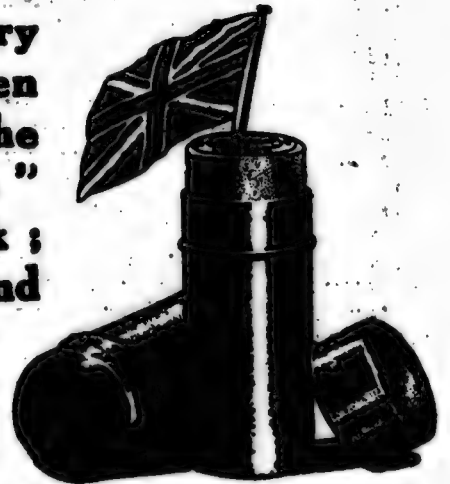
We read of an automatic booking clerk. Nothing new.

The *Mail* asks: "Will the Liberal Party jettison their Jonah?" They have supplied enough walls.

Heading: Advertising Maxims. The best thing is to make a hit.

Erasmic Shaving Stick

British Industry
benefits when
you buy the
"Erasmic"
Shaving Stick;
your face and
your razor
benefit when
you use it.



Of all Chemists and Hairdressers.

British & Best

Of the many
double collars
on the market
there is no shape
more pleasing or
which makes a
wider appeal than

Summit
No. 40
SIX for Three
shillings.
SAMPLES 6d. EACH.

Specially strengthened
where the strain comes

—on the fold: true to size in each
of its SIX depths. Your tie slips
easily on the band, while the 'lock
top' keeps both collar front and tie
in position. **Quarter-sizes.**

Send a postcard for the *Summit*
booklet: remember, we refund money
promptly if the collars do not please
you.

AUSTIN REED
THREE 13 FENCHURCH STREET
CITY 5 St. Mary Axe 147a Cheapside
SHOPS, LONDON



The Peak of Perfection

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.

AUTHORS and ARTISTS submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The Editor can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect.

V. C. (Ealing).—You ask if the Poor Man's Divorce Law came into operation in January. If so, this is the first we have heard of it.

A. S. (Battersea).—From your calculation as to the prospective profits of the John Bull League, we are tempted to think that there is a letter missing from your initials. Have you seen the badges and the hat-pins, and do you know anything of the cost of organising public meetings throughout the country, whilst as regards sales, would it surprise you to know that we at present lose on every copy sold? We suppose you will soon tell us that it must be the quantity that pays.

H. M. T. (Glamorgan) and others, award us a biscuit for putting the driver on the left hand side in a recent "John Bull League Eye" drawing. Do not they know it is the "lidy" who usually takes the reins on these occasions?

"Disbusted" sends us an album with photographs of the pioneers of British Labour, and points out that they have gone out of their way to encourage German labour. But it is not clear at all that they have encouraged this particular production.

THE SECRETARY OF THE KENSINGTON RIFLE CLUB agrees with our theory that distinguished persons who open rifle ranges have bull's eyes arranged for them. But he informs us that in the case of Lord Alverstone, this was unnecessary, as he scored one unaided. He is always scoring.

W. R. (Near Leicester).—We are glad that you corrected the reverend gentleman who imagined that we were a comic paper. Someone had evidently been pulling his leg.

H. A. H. (Fulham) is one of the many people who complain about the Holborn Empire.

B. S. JUNE. (Forest Gate).—We thought you had gone away to Timbuctoo. We note your opinion that the medical students who worried Dollie are cads and cowards, and little better than savages.

"A LOVER OF FAIR PLAY" (Lanham) and a great number of correspondents write protesting against the Grand Jury which refused a true bill to a motorist who ran down some hop-pickers.

M. R. M. (Govan) complains about Greenock Infirmary. A friend of his took children to be operated on there. He had to strip them himself for the operation. Immediately after he was told to take them home. "They were neither washed nor nothing else. They were bleeding profusely from the mouth. They were still unconscious when he arrived home." We agree that they should certainly have been kept in the Infirmary until they recovered consciousness. But is the story quite true?

C. R. S. (Parson's Green) says that he has been a life-long abstainer, but that he was lately run in for being drunk when in charge of a motor-car, and that two constables, one inspector, and the prison doctor swore with the greatest emphasis that he was drunk and smelt strongly of drink. We note that the summons against him failed, but we fear he has no redress.

"UNREPENTANT ADAM" (London, E.C.) asks what steps he should take to get an appointment as warden in one of the prisons where Suffragists are sent. Door-steps.

A. S. G. (Westminster) says that Smyth-Pigott would make a good advertisement for Turkey. Roast or boiled?

A. F. M. (Clapton Park) writes that in the whole course of his life he never read such "crankish, idiot piffle" as an article called "Socialism. A Dream," in our issue of January 8th. And it was written by a parson!

"TYPIST" (Lewisham) says it is quite possible to address nearly 350 envelopes per hour, and wishes Dr. ! a nardo's would give her a job.

R. F. B. (Brixton) and S. H. (Chiswick) suggest that it is quite impossible to address 3,000 envelopes a day, even if the day lasts twenty-four hours.

W. B. W. (Finchley) disagrees with Jim Crow's version of the Belgian Lion at Waterloo with its tail between its legs. He says it is a British Lion rampant.

A. C. (Ealing) AND OTHERS bombard us with abuse of a certain Tory member who retired from the Army rather than go to fight in South Africa.

W. A. (Glasgow) is annoyed with us for addressing the Kaiser in broken English in an open postcard. He thinks we ought to have rubbed up our German. All right! Hoch!

W. C. M. (Nunhead) accuses us of too frequently denouncing the Liberal Party. But we denounce all Parties, in turn.

H. A. B. (Sheffield) wants to know of a firm which offers genuine home employment. So do we.

SUNBEAM CYCLES WITH



**RUN THE EASIEST.
WEAR THE LONGEST.
ARE THE CHEAPEST IN THE
END.**

Think what it means to have your Chain and Driving Bearings always clean and running continuously in a Film of Oil. 1910 Royal Sunbeams with the Little Oil Bath at £12 12 0.

List free on application to

J. Marston Ltd.,—21 Sunbeamland—Wolverhampton.

London Showrooms,

157 & 158, Sloane Street (by Sloane Square), S.W.
Cecil House (57A), Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

BOVRIL

repels colds, chills and influenza

"A MODERATOR" (Harleaden) sneers at the Birmingham reader who took his wife and youngsters out fishing one cold day and made them walk twenty miles in search of public houses. He says it is unfair to blame the Government for such stupidity. But perhaps they were thirsty.

"A SOCIALIST READER" (Acorington) considers Mr. Hudson's article on "Socialism: A Dream," idiotic, imbecilic, ignorant, and, in fact, "an insult to himself and every sensible reader." He assures us that one Jim Crow is quite sufficient for him. His vigour is perhaps accounted for by the information that he is "an Itinerant Con Cer Tina Connoisseur."

D. B. (Nantygio).—Why are you disgusted with the Nonconformist minister who said the Budget was "a Pentecostal measure"? What did he mean?

W. G. H.—Unfortunately your rousing carol arrived too late to be used for the election.

"B. CAREFUL AGAIN" (Partick) is dissatisfied with the London Incandescent Co., 65, Station Road, Camberwell. Some four months ago he answered their advertisement offering £2 weekly for making mantles. They requested 6s. for instructions and working plans, but he saw that the work could not possibly be done at home. So, as he had by this time got another job, he applied for the return of his money. The Company denies that he returned the papers and threatens legal proceedings if he continues to annoy them. It is a pity he did not pay 2d. extra for registration.

E. F. B. (Lower Edmonton) referring to the plumber who got three years for 1s. 11d., points out that it is much more profitable to be a club secretary. He gives us particulars of one who only got three months in the second division for embezzling £90 11s. 6d. belonging to a slate club.

"BULLDOG" (Cornwall) recently stated at a political meeting that the object of the John Bull League was to have a soldier at the War Office, a sailor at the Admiralty, etc. Thereupon somebody asked how we proposed to bring this about. Obviously by having a sufficient majority to form a Business Government.

P. W. (Bargoed) is the proprietor of a theatrical company and travels about with a number of children who have to be licensed wherever he goes. At a place called Caerphilly, he was refused because he had not brought the children with him though they had been licensed by the Merthyr Tydvil magistrates on the previous morning. These jacks in office are certainly a bore.

H. C. (Limpfield).—We quite agree with you that it is a shameful waste of money to spend £20,000 on an expedition to the South Pole.

A. J. B. (Vancouver) spent Christmas at Victoria, and found the return boat so crowded that he had to sit up all night. But he did not mind this as he was in possession of our Christmas number. He thinks that a few months at Vancouver would have a lasting effect on Jim Crow's character.

S. S. (King's Cross) contends that workmen should be allowed to travel at workmen's rates during the night. He says that bakers, compositors, wholesale milkmen, night porters, and others are too early at night and too late in the morning, and he considers this "a downright shame."

M. L. R. (Oxford) sends us an account of the enlistment of a girl scout aged five, and asks: "What are we coming to?" We must ask "B.F."

W. G. (London, S.W.) describes himself as: "Chamberlain, Toast-master, 'Major Domo,' Conductor of Ceremonies, etc.," and offers to send Jim Crow a magnum of the "King of Temperance Beverages." The offer is declined without many thanks.

P. F. (Sheffield).—No, we never hear anything about any scandals.

R. S. F. (Mill Hill) wants us to start a society for the protection of telephone users.

W. R. F. A. (Putney).—We quite agree that the halfpenny press of both parties indulges in unnecessary exaggerations.

"NORTHUMBRIA" (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—We think you may take it that, with the exception of Sir Frederick Banbury, the Unionist party supported old age pensions.

"SALLY" (Woodberry Down) wishes to know the exact length and composition of a jockey's whip. It depends very much upon the horse. In the case of some of our editor's gee-gees, red-hot poker are used, but without much success.

P. R. (Ramsgate) sends us a specimen of a card issued by the Rev. Hancock, of the Baptist Church, Cavendish Street, Ramsgate, inviting people to come to "bright song, brief speech and brotherly regard," and subsequently "be introduced to Christ." No doubt the reverend gentleman means well, but if we were to talk like that!

"NOSY PARKER" (Croydon).—Yes, Mr. Winston Churchill is the author of the phrase "terminological inexactitudes." He once told us how it dawned upon him in the early hours of the morning.

T. F. (Bedford) says he is probably a kill-joy, "having killed the habit his father had of spending his children's money in treating his drunken companions." But where was the joy?

F. B. (Acton Vale) gives instances of irregularities of justice, but it is difficult for us to pronounce without full knowledge of the details.

G. T. R. (London, N.E.) says that the Church Army take advantage of paupers. Too bad.

W. W. (P.O.S.W.) wants our opinion about the preservation of the peace of Europe, the Triple Alliance of England, France and Germany, votes for women, and the infamy of the Pow Laws. We will enlarge our paper as soon as we can.

"YORKSHIRE GRUMBLER" (Hull) complains that a railway company charged him 2s. excess for luggage which he looked after himself, whereas it could have been sent separately for 4d. He does not say which company—or what luggage.

"HULL-BULL" (Hull).—They were both exposed in the same number. Tut!

G. W. F. (Wimbledon) complains of the inadequacy of the relief afforded by institutions for the blind.

"SYMPATHISING TERRITORIAL" sends us 10s. for Mrs. Charles Stone whose husband was killed whilst serving as a territorial gunner. We have forwarded on the amount.

E. M. C. (Newmarket) and M. C. E. (Mumbles) send us 5s. and 1s., respectively, for the poor man who was summoned at Willesden for rates. The amounts have been duly forwarded.

"DISGUSTED" (London, E.).—What is the name of the man at Forest Gate of whom you complain? You cannot expect us to make charges of so serious a character without more definite information.

(We regret we are obliged to hand over a large number of replies.)



YOU WOULD NOT DREAM of carrying a Trouser Press on your Bicycle—Then why carry a Thre-Speed Gear when A TWO-SPEED IS ALL YOU REQUIRE?

A Three-Speed means more weight—more grind and friction—MORE FAG, because "Complications increase friction, while

Simplification reduces it."

The VILLIERS TWO-SPEED is a Three-Speed without the low gear. A direct drive of about 65 and a high gear for speed are ALL expert cyclists need.—This is what the Villiers offers in a simple form with only 29 separate parts, whereas a three-speed gear contains from 60 to 100 parts!

Booklet and full particulars free from
THE VILLIERS CO.,—BLAKENHALL,—
WOLVERHAMPTON.

(Mention who is your local Cycle Agent.)

I Don't Think

that 3/9 is an excessive price for a new suit, do you? But that is all you pay to have an old suit made to look as fresh and smart as new by the Achille Serre process of dry-cleaning. And the time taken is only a few days.

Write to-day for our booklet "Clothes and the Man" and address of nearest branch or agency.

Achille Serre Ltd.,

(Nettoyage à sec)

Hackney Wick, London, E.

TELEPHONE 1265 EAST

Carriage paid one way on all orders sent direct.

MONEY ON EASY TERMS.

From £30 to any amount, on simple note of hand or to Heirs to Money or Property under Wills or Settlements at 4 per cent. per annum; also on Furniture without removal, or any other reasonable security. Easy terms of repayment to suit borrowers' own convenience.

No Preliminary Charges Whatever.

Call or write Mr. JAMES FRAZER (Estd. 29 years.) 14, New Oxford St., W.C.

£5 per Week and Upwards Earned by Advertisement Writers. Opportunities for Ambitious People. Prospectus Post Free.

(Dept. 73), PAGE-DAVIS ADVERTISING SCHOOL,
15, Oxford Street, London, W.

What is Your Number?

SEE PAGE 11 OF COVER.

CURE YOUR RUPTURE

AND DISCARD THE TRUSS.
LEARN HOW YOU MAY DO BOTH FREE.

Why suffer from Rupture of any description when you can learn all about a cure simply for the cost of a letter or postcard—a cure which quickly, painlessly and permanently restores ruptured sufferers to perfect health and renders the use of the Truss unnecessary?

For many years I was practically helpless through a double Rupture.

Trusses were useless, and Doctors said that an operation would do me no good whatever. Almost in despair, and as a last resource, I decided to make Rupture, its cause and cure, my special study, with the result that after much research I discovered a system which completely cured me. I was so overjoyed at my discovery that I told every ruptured person I knew, about it, and to my great delight they were able to cure themselves also. Probably you have read about this discovery in the newspapers. Thousands have since been cured by it and therefore if you are ruptured, or know anybody who is ruptured



write to me at once and I will have sent on to you the information you need and a Test entirely free of charge. I am anxious that every Ruptured sufferer throughout the length and breadth of the land should cure themselves with my system, as I did. Simply fill in and send coupon below and all will be sent you entirely at my expense.

FREE TEST COUPON.

Capt. W. A. COLLINGS & Sons (Box 115),
33, Theobald's Road, London, W.C.

Dear Sirs:—Send me Free the Information and Test, that I may cure my Rupture.

Name.....

Address.....

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA LEGAL FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Chief Office—ST. ANDREW STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Claims Paid Exceed £7,250,000
Invested Funds £3,800,000
Annual Income £1,400,000

LIFE AND ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES AT POPULAR
RATES. WORLD-WIDE POLICES.

ARTHUR HENRI, Secretary.

Matchless Mixtures.

Just try any one of the following perfect blends if you wish to experience real pleasure from your pipe.

"TWO HOURS" Mixture 5d. per oz.
Cool, Fragrant, and absolutely Pure.

"ALDERWOOD" Mixture 5d. per oz.
In Three Strengths. Our Latest Success.

"LUNTIN" Mixture 6d. per oz.
In Three Strengths.

The Blend that made us famous.

"MOUND" Mixture 1/4 per 2 ozs.
Blended from the finest leaf procurable.

All the Best Tobacconists supply the above, but should you have any difficulty, send stamps to the amount for Samples to the Manufacturers,

Thomson & Porteous, Edinburgh.

NOVEL CO-OPERATIVE OPTION SCHEME.

SEE THE

"WEEKLY REPORT,"

1, Tokenhouse Bldg., London, E.C.

Fill in this Coupon for Sample Copy Free.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

MONEY LENT. ON NOTE OF HAND ONLY.

From £20 to £2,000

VERY LOW CHARGES. HASTY REPLY. STRICTLY PRIVATE.
BILLS DISCOUNTED. POST-DATED CHEQUES CASHED.

WM. STANLEY & Co., 271 & 273, Oxford Street, London, W.

BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA,

Nasal Catarrh and Blood-spitting.

CURED AFTER 30 YEARS.

Mr. J. CHURCHILL, of Dowlish
Wake, Ilminster, Somerset, writes:—

"Nearly 30 years ago I contracted inflammation of the lungs which left me with Bronchial Asthma of a very severe type, my cough being so bad that people said if ever they heard a 'churchyard cough' I had it and at times the paroxysms were so bad that I could not lie in bed. All this terrible time resulted in a fearful illness, and everyone thought I would never get over it. At last I was induced to try Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, and I soon found I was on the right track at last, and now, thanks to your extraordinary remedy, my asthma is entirely gone, and I am at work as hard as ever."



Mr. Churchill.

Veno's Lightning Cough Cure is the Safest & Surest Remedy for:—

COUGHS & COLDS.
BRONCHITIS.
WEAK LUNGS.
INFLUENZA.
SORE THROAT.

9½d.
a bottle.

ASTHMA.
NASAL CATARRH.
CHILDREN'S COUGHS.
OLD & GE COUGHS.
BLOOD-SPITTING

Larger Sizes, 1/1 and 2/6, of all Chemists.

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE.

MONEY FOR NOTHING!

A proposed division of £5,000 in 738 prizes, by a firm of Publishers, who are about to place shortly upon the market a Monthly Magazine.

The prizes below will be made out in cheques, which to the best of our belief have not been assigned to anyone connected with the firm or personal friends. The numbers of the cheques and the names of the payees thereon having been verified by a notary public, will be deposited with the bankers. In return for these

prizes we simply ask you to claim. Let us assume your name has been chosen. Then,

the money is waiting for you. There is already a cheque waiting you deposited with the bankers. Nobody else can touch it. If you do not, the money reverts to the publishers. There are no entrance fees, no coupons to collect, nothing to sell, and all are eligible to write us. Please write very plainly on the coupon and send your name and address to-day, as this advertisement will not appear again.

THE PRIZES:—

2 of £1000—	£2,000
1 „ 500—	500
5 „ 100—	500
10 „ 50—	500
20 „ 20—	400
100 „ 5—	500
600 „ 1—	600
738	£5,000

COUPON.

PLEASE WRITE PLAINLY.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TOWN.....

COUNTRY.....

A Specimen Copy of Magazine will be sent each applicant in due course, post free.

Address:—PUBLISHERS,

c/o THE CITY ADVERTISING CO.,

50, Lincoln's Inn Fields, LONDON, W.C.

RACING NOTES

By W. LORINGA.

("Larry Lyns" of THE PEOPLE, and "Magpie" of THE GLOBE.)

A Bit of the Old.

During the present quiet period some of the bookmakers have a stroll into the paddock to see if they can "collect" any of the amounts owing to them; but they admit that it is a very hopeless task.

The Drudge Re-appearing.

I thought Mr. W. H. Woodroffe would not be long before he took The Drudge out of the hunting-field for the racecourse, and the six-year-old, who has always been a really good jumper, even over a country, will probably carry colours again at Newbury this month.

Prophetic.

Seven days of almost continuous metropolitan sport, with Gatwick as the stepping stone. In the International Hurdle Handicap, CARNTOI has a big chance, while on his form with PERAMBUCO, FOP is also thrown in. Yet I should believe in SIMONSON carrying top-weight home should the ground not be too heavy. A much better thing, however, is

BUTTER BALL,

whose jumping will take the others off their legs in the Tantivy Steeplechase.

Next week, Kempton and Sandown give a real tempting, and a betting, round.

In the Middlesex Steeplechase,

BELUS

is wonderfully treated, and must carry my vote, although there is always danger from Koro if he gallops.

The Rendlesham Hurdle Handicap will have been influenced by the interim events, but I like nothing better than GALLIVANT, and think SUTTON PARK capable of taking the Littleton Handicap, as he stays well. The Spring Handicap Steeplechase, to my mind, rests between

SHADY GIRL AND CARSEY,

both of whom have several other pending engagements, so may not clash.

Anything that tends to help the sportsman in his turf pursuits, or the student of form in the search for statistics, merits approbation, and, therefore, the just issued Diary for 1910, of Mr. Douglas Stuart, of New Oxford Street, deserves a word to extol its completeness and handiness; with it the commission agent's rules and terms are naturally embraced.

TRADE NOTE.

Springtime is seed-time, and every well-regulated mind is thinking of garden glories and floral beauty. And, naturally enough, such thoughts have to be practical, for the decision has now to be made as to where the seeds shall be procured. In this connection Eckfords may be recommended. All their seed is of their own raising, and when the seed harvest arrives the utmost care and vigilance is exercised in cleansing and sifting the seeds. Only after the most rigorous tests are the seeds passed for sale, and when a packet of Eckfords' seeds are procured one may be sure that they are of the best. Readers, however, should be careful to note that Eckfords, of Wem, are direct dealers. They have no agents, and do not supply retailers. They are both growers and retailers. Their new catalogue is at the disposal of our readers, and they will willingly forward a copy, free, to every applicant sending a postcard.

Comfortable Chins.

After shaving, nothing will give such a cool, comfortable, velvety feeling to the chin as ICILMA FLUOR CREAM. Used overnight, it softens the skin, makes shaving easy, and prevents roughness, redness and soreness.

Of all Chemists, 1s. Send 2d. for sample to ICILMA CO., LTD. (Dept. 5), 14a Rosebery Avenue, LONDON, E.C.4.

Icilma Fluor Cream

BIRKBECK BANK

Established 1829.
SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

2½ PER CENT. INTEREST

allowed on Deposit Accounts, repayable on demand.

2 PER CENT. INTEREST

on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book.

All general Banking Business transacted.

ALMANACK with full particulars, POST FREE.

G. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary

BUCHANAN'S WHISKY

"BLACK & WHITE"

MAKES YOU CHEERFUL AND KEEPS YOU BRIGHT.

5

MONTHLY.

WRITE FOR LIST TO-DAY.

I give considerably better value, grant much longer credit, and offer far easier payment terms, than anyone else.

You can buy from me brand new latest patterns:—SWIFT, HUNTER, COVENTRY, CHALLENGE, TRIUMPH, REMINGTON, PREMIER, PROGRESS, CENTAUR, QUAD-RANT, ROVER, SINGER, and other Coventry cycles at 2/- monthly.

A small deposit only has to be paid before the machine is despatched on approval.

HIGH-GRADE COVENTRY CYCLES from 25 10s.

12 years' Guarantee.

Edw. O'Brien, Ltd.

The World's Largest Cycle Dealer (Dept. 195) Coventry.



"MYSANTAL" TOOTH BRUSH.

Each Tuft set in Aluminium.

Loose Bristles Impossible.

OVER 1,000,000 IN DAILY USE.

Complete in Metal Case, with Brush for Cleansing.

1/6 8 2/- ALL TEXTURES.



(REGISTERED.) Each Genuine Brush stamped "MYSANTAL."

SPECIAL OFFER.

FILL IN COUPON.

BOX OF MYSANTAL Dental Preparations sent free if 2d. enclosed for packing and postage, or 1s. 6d. for MYSANTAL TOOTH BRUSH.

Name.....

Address.....

MYSANTAL CO., 55, Berners St., London, W.

"MONDAY MIDGET"

Is a private publication, issued every Monday.

EVERY COPY CONTAINS AUTHENTIC RACING INTELLIGENCE: PROBABLY UNOBTAINABLE ELSEWHERE.

THE SPECIALITY

of the "MIDGET" is the

OVER-NIGHT ONE-HORSE CODE SELECTIONS published in all the principal papers of the United Kingdom every raceday.

PRICE 2s. 6d.

Forwarded in plain sealed envelopes. Four weeks are sent for 7s. 6d.

Ten Weeks for £1.

OFFICES:

"MONDAY MIDGET," ASCOT, BERKS.

WILLIAM FARRER, GLASGOW & AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND.

No Football Business undertaken.

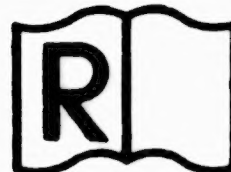
Any feasible System worked.

List of Systems and Terms on receipt of 1d. postcard to— WILLIAM FARRER, Amsterdam, Holland.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See page 111. of Cover.

The cypher "0" in front of a number may be disregarded, as it comes up automatically at regular intervals by the working of the numbering machine.



Lord Whitehead to Lord Blacklock.



Lord Whitehead :
"I say, Blacklock, this
blessed Budget is
turning my hair
grey!"

Lord Blacklock :
"So it would mine,
only I use Lockyer's
Hair Restorer."

Large Bottles,

Sold **1/6**
Everywhere

or privately packed from Bedford
Laboratory, London, S.E.

DON'T LOOK OLD.

**DARKEN YOUR GREY HAIR TO ITS NATURAL COLOUR WITH
LOCKYER'S HAIR RESTORER.**

CHEER UP.

Every bottle of **Pepper's Tonic** brings hope to the despairing. If you are run down, out of sorts, "below par," why not try **Pepper's Tonic**—the great remedy with 40 years' reputation?

**THE SUREST CURE FOR
INFLUENZA**

It never fails in all cases of Influenza, Neuralgia, Prostration, Indigestion, Loss of Appetite, Sleeplessness, Nervousness and General Debility.

It acts like a charm. Large bottles, 1/- and 2/-. Sold everywhere, or post free from J. Pepper & Co., Ltd., Bedford Laboratory, London, S.E.

PEPPER'S TONIC

TOOTHACHE & NEURALGIA

Cured instantly by

**BUNTER'S
NERVINE.**

Rev. AUBREY C. PRICE, B.A., late Fellow of New College, Oxford, writes: "Owing to extensive decay in two double teeth, I suffered for days with excruciating pain. I was recommended to try Bunter's Nervine; I did so, and to my joy the pain quickly and entirely ceased."

Of all Chemists and Stores at 1/1½, and (Depot)

**BEDFORD LABORATORY,
LONDON, S.E.**



ECZEMA and the worst skin ailments

ARE COMPLETELY CURED BY
SULPHOLINE LOTION

which directly attacks all forms of Eczema, Eruptions, Pimples, Acne, Spots, Blackheads, or Disfiguring Rashes, leaving the Skin in the soft, clear, supple, attractive condition designed by Nature.

BOTTLES EVERYWHERE, 1/- & 2/6.

SULPHOLINE SOAP

is best, safest, purest and most exquisite in daily use. Tablets everywhere, or by post for 6d. from

**BEDFORD LABORATORY,
LONDON, S.E.**

